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See editorial on pg. 4...

Thursday, May 15, 2008

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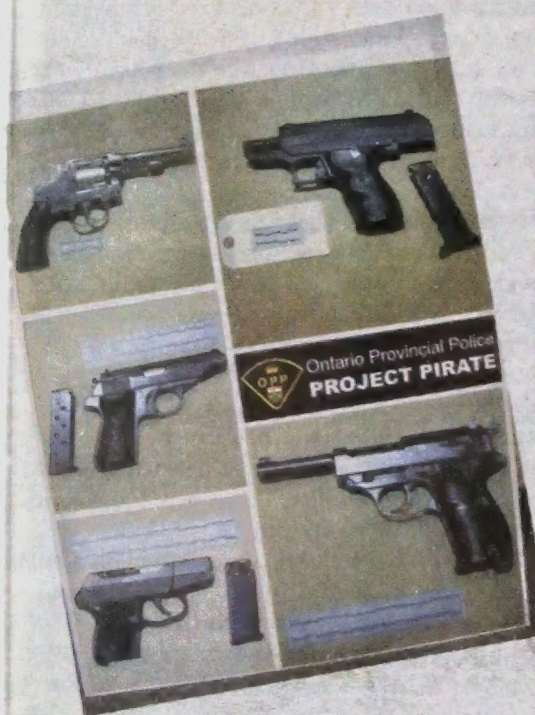
County Voice .ca

Haliburton County's Local Weekly Newspaper

Vol 1 Issue 16

**Happy
Victoria Day
Weekend**

Arrests Made in Major Drug Operation



Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

OPP 'Project Pirate' Investigation Results in 45 Arrests With More To Come

Forty-five arrests and 173 charges have been laid in relation to a massive marijuana grow operation that was found north of Minden on October 5, 2007. Over the course of the investigation dubbed "Project Pirate" a total of 2,400 lbs of marijuana and other illicit drugs have been seized with a total value of approximately \$7 million.

These were some of the details released at a press conference held at the Haliburton Highlands OPP Detachment on Tuesday.

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), the Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB) and the Drug Enforcement Section (DES) were in attendance to speak about the "Project Pirate" investigation that led to the recent arrests.

According to Ken Leppert, Detective Inspector for the Criminal Investigation Branch, the most recent arrest was made on Saturday, May 10. He said that more arrests will be made this week and in the weeks to come.



"These criminals were amongst the most dangerous kinds of criminals because they would stop at nothing to steal from others," said Ken Smith, Chief OPP Superintendent for the Central Region. Of those charged, none are local residents.

In the October incident, approximately a dozen assailants were engaged in stealing a large quantity of freshly harvested marijuana bud along an ATV trail, north of Minden. Six civilians, who were in the area at the time, stumbled upon the assailants who were

in the process of taking the marijuana from a grow-op that belonged to other criminals. This procedure is known as a "marijuana rip." As for the person(s) the marijuana originally belonged to, Leppert said that no information could be released due to the nature of the ongoing investigation.

Smith described how the victims were terrorized during the incident.

"They were taken by force, pistol whipped, shot at and robbed of their possessions. These people were the victims of unfortunate timing and circumstance," he said. Two of the victims were Ministry of Natural Resources contracted employees, three were pleasure riders and one was a hunter. All of the victims managed to escape after being taken hostage for approximately three hours.

"The marijuana rip that occurred in Minden last October was one of two major incidents," said Leppert. "The second major incident involved a car jacking and a handgun shooting along Hwy 401 near Trenton, during which one man was shot and a second injured."

Smith says that criminals stealing from other criminals has become a growing trend in the province.

Story cont'd... pg. 2 ... >>

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Issue:**

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Spring Festival
See pg. 16**



**Highland Dance
School Raises Money for
Local Dancing Talent
See Pg.22**



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CUPE and County Inch Closer to Strike Position with No Talks Scheduled

By Tyson Farrell & Liz Daniels

Thirty-three Canadian Union of Public Employee members who work for the County of Haliburton have yet to reach an agreement with the municipality, and the countdown to a possible strike or lock out continues.

After a closed session yesterday morning Haliburton County Council released a statement that talks between the County and CUPE 1960 have officially broken off. County Council gave a unanimous vote of support to their negotiating team and to the final offer of settlement previously presented to CUPE.

The County has offered a four-year contract with a wage increase of four percent in 2008 and three percent for each of the remaining years of the contract. For an equipment operator, this represents an increase of \$2.59 an hour over the life of the proposed contract. In addition the County has proposed some changes to the existing benefit plan that would provide new benefits (employee assistance plan, increasing vision coverage and life insurance for spouse and dependents) while eliminating semi-private hospital coverage, changing the 6-month dental recall to 9 months and placing a \$10 cap on prescription dispensing fees. Other improvements included an increase to the existing safety boot allowance.

Labor relations broke down on May 2 when the County requested a 'no board' report from an Ontario Ministry of Labor conciliator. Both parties have until May 23 to reach a formal agreement. If no agreement is reached, the 33 Local 1960 CUPE members will have the option of going on strike, or the County could lock them out.

According to Brian Mulholland, one of the affected workers and CUPE spokesman, the County still refuses to negotiate with the CUPE employees, leaving them with the same "final offer" they were presented with more than a week ago.

"Very little has changed since last week. We've sent a letter to Warden Eleanor Harrison, asking her to persuade her colleagues to come back to the negotiating table. They're not interested though. They have no flexibility," Mulholland said.

The County Voice contacted Warden Eleanor Harrison, but Harrison wouldn't confirm receipt of the letter, or speak to the labour relations situation. CAO Jim Wilson and Reeve Murray Fearrey are on the County's negotiating committee, however, they both showed reluctance to speak to the labour dispute.

"The County is having a closed council session on Wednesday to discuss the matter. That's all I'm willing to say at the moment," said Fearrey.

Fearrey was however, willing to comment on statements made by CUPE National Representative Alison Davidson in last week's issue of the County Voice, particularly with respect to her comment about Dysart's workers adopting a settlement after the use of "strong-armed tactics". Fearrey said there were two other CUPE contracts settled before Dysart, one with conciliation and one without Davidson or a union representative present. He said the details of the contract settlement in Dysart were very similar to the other municipalities.

Fearrey also said Dysart et al's contract was the third one to be settled, and in that case, union members requested that the meeting take place without Davidson being present. Fearrey says this may be part of the reason that she is making such strong statements about the County.

"Davidson's comments about Dysart employees being 'strong-armed' implied that they're not competent to make a good decision on their own." Fearrey was quick to say that he has a very competent staff and he has a great deal of respect for the jobs all of them are doing.

However, Fearrey said CUPE representatives are now running a public relations program through the press. His final comment was that if these are the kind of misleading statements being made it puts into question the validity of any statement made by Davidson.

Local CUPE members and the County have several issues in contention. Haliburton CUPE engineering planners currently work four 10-hour days per week. The County wants to change their work week to five days, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to allow better response capabilities to public inquiries during working hours.

The County also wants to change the hours of the Tourism Facilitator position. At the moment, the facilitator works 40 hours per week during the summer, and 30 hours per week during the winter. The County now wants the Tourism Facilitator to work 35 hours per week, year-round. The CUPE members are protesting the scheduling changes.

CUPE is also rejecting the County's proposed changes to the worker's benefit plan.

"The employer is also trying to change the retiree benefit plan. Currently, the employer pays the benefit premium for the first two years of retirement, and the retiree has the option of paying the premiums for another two years. They want to change it so that the employer and retiree both pay 50 percent of the premiums for four years," said Mulholland.

The County and CUPE members are also at loggerheads over wages.

"The contract that the employer is offering would make our equipment operators the lowest paid in Haliburton County. This

is hard for our members to accept. The employer is showing an absence of respect for the services that our workers provide," Mulholland said.

The County, on the other hand, feels that the salary offer is very competitive with what was negotiated by CUPE earlier this year with the Municipalities of Highlands East, Dysart et al and Minden Hills.

"The County has not contacted the union," said Davidson in a telephone interview this week. "The County is not interested in speaking to, or negotiating with CUPE. We don't know why they're being so reluctant. They won't negotiate with the media, so they should negotiate directly with the CUPE members. That's what they should be doing... Instead the County wants to tick down to the strike deadline."

Mulholland said the current County staff is young and very talented. "Our staff is our most important resource. It's a real shame to see workers leave the County, because the employer will not provide better wages and better treatment. Staff members are already leaving. It's a real detriment to Haliburton County," Mulholland said. On hearing this statement, Fearrey said that he was unaware of any staff members who had left the County or were considering making a move.

"The County's wage proposal is in keeping with other municipalities, is above the current rate of inflation and is a fair one considering today's economic climate in Haliburton County," said County CAO Jim Wilson.

Wilson also said, "We are very disappointed that an agreement could not be reached. While we are still hopeful that our employees will seriously reconsider this final offer, the County will be preparing our contingency plan to deal with any disruption of County services after May 23, 2008."

Project Pirate cont'd...

>> ... from pg 1

"The greater the profit the more they're willing to do to get it and the more harm they are prepared to inflict on those who would try to stop them," he added.

Leppert says that these outdoor grow-ops in rural communities within driving distance of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) have become quite common.

"It's our understanding that this product was destined to initially return to the GTA and then be disbursed from there," he said.

Smith explained how these recent developments in the Minden case have helped make strides in putting a stop to this sort of activity.

"Our unrelenting efforts these past several months to disrupt the activities of criminal networks, have, in a manner of speaking, garnered us enormous profits today in our ongoing fight against organized crime."

Following the OPP presentation, Minden Reeve Jim McMahon praised those involved with the investigation targeted at wiping out this sort of illegal activity.

"I'd like to commend your organization for the success of this investigation. We are proud of this area and we don't want to tolerate this type of illegal crime. There's no room for it," said McMahon.

To date, the large scale investigation conducted by the OPP Drug Enforcement Section (DES) Central East Unit, the Tactical Rescue Unit (TRU), Emergency Response Team (ERT), Canine Units and Air Services, has located: marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy, weapons, cash, high-end vehicles and other proceeds of crime. Durham Regional Police Service, Peel Regional Police Service and Toronto Police Service have provided tactical assistance throughout "Project Pirate".

In a recent press release from OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino, he expresses how satisfied he is with the outcomes of the investigation. Two days after the incident October, Fantino vowed to hunt down and apprehend the perpetrators.

"I am extremely pleased to be delivering on my word last October, and I attribute this the exceptional investigative work on the part of the Ontario Provincial Police and our specialized units. Not only did we apprehend individuals involved in the Minden incident, we have laid numerous collateral charges against other individuals involved in various organized criminal activity."



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Baby Mama (PG) Tina Fey	Fri & Mon 7:00 pm	Sat & Sun 6:50 pm
Forgetting Sarah Marshall (18A) Jason Segel	Fri & Mon 9:00 pm	Sat & Sun 8:50 pm
What happened in Vegas (PG) Cameron Diaz	Fri & Mon 7:30 pm	Sat & Sun 6:40 & 9:00
Speed Racer (PG) Emile Hirsch	Fri & Mon 7:45 pm	Sat & Sun 6:30 & 9:15

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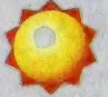
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THURSDAY


Mostly sunny and pleasant
▲ 16° ▼ 6°

FRIDAY


Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers
▲ 13° ▼ 2°

SATURDAY


Cloudy with scattered showers
▲ 14° ▼ 6°

SUNDAY


Cooler and breezy with more showers likely
▲ 12° ▼ 6°

MONDAY


Cool with morning showers
▲ 11° ▼ 4°

TUESDAY


Mostly cloudy with a few showers
▲ 12° ▼ 3°

WEDNESDAY


Partly sunny and continued cool
▲ 12° ▼ 3°

AROUND THE REGION: High pressure will dominate the weather on Thursday as skies will be mostly sunny. High temperatures will be in the middle teens. Clouds will be on the increase Thursday night with lows in the middle single digits. Wet weather will be likely through the weekend with highs the low to mid-teens.

Your Unofficial Lotto Numbers

LOTTO 649

May 10, 2008

13 15 17 26 34 48

Bonus Number 25

Encore 5248054

SUPER 7

May 9, 2008

03 14 25 35 36 38 43

Bonus Number 32

Encore 2503422

These are all unofficial numbers. To confirm a win please visit www.olg.ca or visit a local authorized OLG dealer.

Fire Rating

Moderate

REGIONAL CITIES							
City	Today Hi/Low/Otk	Friday Hi/Low/Otk	Saturday Hi/Low/Otk	Sunday Hi/Low/Otk	Monday Hi/Low/Otk	Tuesday Hi/Low/Otk	Wednesday Hi/Low/Otk
Bancroft	15/6/su	13/2/sh	14/6/sh	6/6/sh	11/3/cl	12/3/sh	12/3/pc
Barrie	16/5/su	14/3/sh	15/7/sh	12/7/sh	12/4/dz	13/4/sh	12/3/pc
Dorset	15/5/su	13/2/sh	14/6/sh	11/6/sh	10/3/cl	12/3/sh	11/2/pc
Haliburton	16/6/su	13/2/sh	14/6/sh	12/6/sh	11/4/cl	12/3/sh	12/3/pc
Huntsville	15/5/su	13/2/sh	14/6/sh	11/6/sh	10/3/cl	12/3/sh	11/2/pc
Kingston	17/6/su	16/6/sh	15/8/sh	13/7/sh	12/6/cl	14/6/sh	13/4/pc
Lindsay	16/6/su	14/3/sh	14/7/sh	12/7/sh	11/4/cl	13/4/sh	13/4/pc
Minden	16/6/su	13/2/sh	14/6/sh	12/6/sh	11/4/cl	12/3/sh	12/3/pc
Oshawa	17/6/su	16/4/sh	15/8/sh	13/7/sh	12/6/cl	14/6/sh	13/4/pc
Ottawa	18/8/su	17/7/sh	14/7/sh	12/9/sh	11/8/sh	12/7/sh	12/3/pc
Toronto	17/6/su	16/6/sh	15/7/sh	14/8/sh	13/6/dz	15/7/sh	13/4/pc

NATIONAL CITIES							
City	Today Hi/Low/Otk	Friday Hi/Low/Otk	Saturday Hi/Low/Otk	Sunday Hi/Low/Otk	Monday Hi/Low/Otk	Tuesday Hi/Low/Otk	Wednesday Hi/Low/Otk
Calgary	25/14/su	25/10/su	26/10/su	23/11/su	24/14/pc	22/8/cl	21/7/pc
Edmonton	22/7/cl	23/8/cl	22/11/cl	20/11/cl	22/17/cl	19/8/sh	17/6/sh
Fredericton	17/7/pc	16/8/sh	14/7/ra	10/8/sh	9/7/sh	17/6/sh	14/4/sh
Halifax	17/8/pc	17/9/cl	13/5/ra	11/8/sh	10/7/dz	12/7/dz	11/5/sh
Montreal	18/9/su	18/7/sh	15/7/sh	11/8/sh	10/7/sh	11/6/sh	13/4/pc
Regina	20/8/su	23/7/pc	27/13/pc	24/10/sh	20/9/pc	19/7/cl	18/6/pc
St. John's	15/7/pc	17/1/ra	14/6/sh	7/3/sh	6/6/sh	7/4/ra	7/3/sh
Saskatoon	21/8/pc	23/9/cl	24/11/cl	23/7/sh	20/9/cl	22/13/sh	19/9/pc
Vancouver	24/9/pc	30/11/su	30/11/su	20/13/cl	26/11/sh	17/1/sh	14/8/sh
Whitehorse	9/2/mx	11/2/cl	12/3/sh	12/4/sh	6/2/dz	8/0/mx	7/0/sh
Winnipeg	17/6/sh	21/8/sh	20/8/pc	22/11/sh	17/3/pc	19/7/cl	13/2/sh

AREA ALMANAC

Last seven days	High	Low	Prec.
Tuesday 5/13	22°C	4°C	0.0 mm
Monday 5/12	19°C	7°C	0.0 mm
Sunday 5/11	18°C	3°C	0.0 mm
Saturday 5/10	18°C	6°C	0.0 mm
Friday 5/9	na	na	na
Thursday 5/8	13°C	5°C	0.3 mm
Wednesday 5/7	13°C	0°C	16.0 mm

Readings from Haliburton/Stanhope Airport
www.stanhopeairport.com

Forecasts, graphs and data provided by Weather Central, Inc., Madison, Wis. © 2008

SUN & MOON

Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set
Thu. 5:44 a.m./8:37 p.m.	4:32 p.m./3:27 a.m.
Fri. 5:43 a.m./8:38 p.m.	5:37 p.m./3:45 a.m.
Sat. 5:42 a.m./8:39 p.m.	6:43 p.m./4:04 a.m.
Sun. 5:41 a.m./8:41 p.m.	7:49 p.m./4:26 a.m.
Mon. 5:40 a.m./8:42 p.m.	8:54 p.m./4:52 a.m.
Tues. 5:39 a.m./8:43 p.m.	9:56 p.m./5:25 a.m.
Wed. 5:38 a.m./8:44 p.m.	10:51 p.m./6:05 a.m.

Full

Last

New

First

May 19

May 27

June 3

June 10



Police Reports

Search Warrants Executed

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment executed a search warrant on Friday May 9th at 1060 Woods Road in the Township of Dysart et al. Officers were assisted by an O.P.P. Canine officer.

As a result of the execution of the warrant officers seized a quantity of drugs including marijuana, hashish and cocaine. Officers also seized numerous knives and a crossbow.

The following people have been charged.

Stephanie Lewis 18 years, of Woods Road has been charged with;

Possession for the Purpose Schedule 1 – Cocaine
Possession for the Purpose Schedule 11 – Marijuana
Possession of a Weapon Dangerous to the Public Peace
Careless Storage of Ammunition

Matthew McCord 26 years, of Woods Road has been charged with;

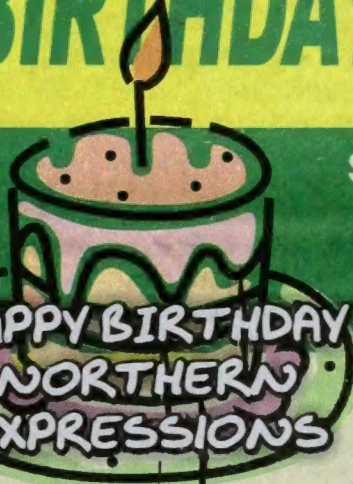
Possession for the Purpose Schedule 1 – Cocaine
Possession for the Purpose Schedule 11 – Marijuana
Possession of a Weapon Dangerous to the Public Peace
Careless storage of Ammunition

Stephanie Lewis was held for a bail hearing. Mr. McCord will be appearing in Minden Court on July 2, 2008 in relation to his charges

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during our

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NORTHERN

EXPRESSIONS

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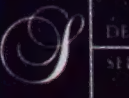


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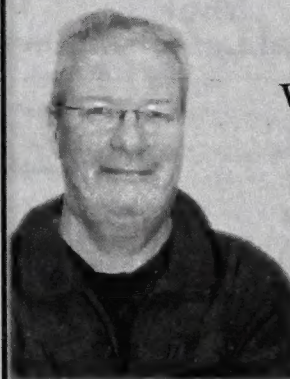
EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

BY STEPHEN PATRICK

Welcome Back Cottagers

"It's the 24th of May, the Queen's Birthday
If You Don't Give Us a Holiday,
We'll All Run Away"

Welcome Back!



So perhaps it's not the 24th quite yet, but the holiday's the same, and we know in our hearts that Queen Victoria really is amused, in a quiet sort of way, that the Canadian Cottage season has its unofficial start on her birthday. So Happy Birthday, Vicky, and we'll try to keep the fireworks down to a dull boom.

This week also marks the 16th edition of Haliburton's brand new weekly newspaper, the County Voice, and in a moment we'll tell you a little more about who and what we are. But first, we'd like to welcome the Haliburton Cottage Community back to our beautiful lakes and forests. Many of us still remember the almost unbearable excitement we felt as children coming back to the cottage each summer: the long drive, the sudden recognition of familiar landmarks, the smell of the forests, and the cool breeze off the lake. And even though many cottagers now use their properties throughout the year, May 24 is still an exciting kick-off to what we all hope will be a warm and sunny summer.

The Birth of the Voice

Last December, Joanne and Brett Irvine, founders and owners of our sister paper, The Highlands Communicator, decided the County – and the world – was ready for a paper devoted almost exclusively to local news and events. In just six weeks, on January 31, the first edition hit the streets, complete with a rousing visual welcome from visiting dogsledder and television personality Rick Mercer. Since then, the response to the Voice, from all sections of the Haliburton community, has been very positive, for which all of us are grateful.

In our first editorial I wrote, "We want the Voice to be a catalyst for discussion, argument, respectful differences of opinion and the occasional outright rant. But first and foremost the Voice will be a vehicle for reporting the weekly news and events in this County, honestly and fairly." Each week we try to live up to those goals and expectations, and as the summer goes along, we'll be paying close attention to issues and events of particular concern to cottagers and their associations.

These issues, water quality, zoning, boating safety, are issues that affect all of us who call the Highlands home, whether we're permanent or seasonal residents. The line between "resident" and "cottager" has become happily blurred over the past number of years as cottages become second, and often first homes for so many. Many cottagers become permanent residents, starting businesses, teaching, working in our expanding health care system, or simply retiring. Our hospital boards, our municipalities, and many of our cultural institutions have been enriched by our seasonal residents. The County's ongoing efforts to bring hi-speed Internet to all corners of the Highlands is just one example of how we understand the importance of being part of the wider world (see article in this issue on page 2B).

In that first editorial, written in the deep cold and snow of a truly old-fashioned winter, I also noted that, "our view of this world doesn't rule out a look at our community's stake in events far, far away. Our range can extend even to Kandahar and beyond. (See our regular column by Captain David Beatty opposite). In the last 30 years, Haliburton County has undergone enormous changes in its demographics, its diversity, and its connection to that wider world.

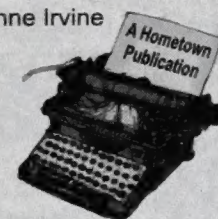
"Despite these changes, we still believe that there continues to be a genuine Haliburton identity that is distinctive and kind, ironic, yet plain speaking, rooted in community values and community service. This is the centre, or core from which our editorial "Voice" will come."

We continue to welcome our readers input. Write us at any time at letters@countyvoice.ca, or come in and see us at our offices (in the lower level of Stedman's Mall in Haliburton).

We also offer subscriptions – you won't want to be without Haliburton's only County-wide paper during any week of the year: please drop in or phone us at 705-457-5001 for details. And have an absolutely wonderful, safe, and happy summer.

The County Voice Inc.

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Illustrated by Kath Watson

Letter of the Week

Dear Editor:

Readers of the Communicator and the Voice have been calling R.D. Lawrence Place to purchase or express their interest in our postage stamp featuring Ron Lawrence. This is a fundraising project for the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and the support is very much appreciated. Sometimes we become so anxious about thanking people most closely involved in our special events and day-to-day operations that we overlook the role the media plays in providing us with such superb support. The stories in these publications provide us with the kind of coverage and outreach that as a non-profit cultural organization we would never be able to afford.

Thank you to the reporters, editor, layout designers and production staff that have each had their hand in helping to get R.D. Lawrence Place on its feet. The story that appeared on the front page of the VOICE regarding the arrival of Ron Lawrence's desk from British Columbia has captured the attention of many of our visitors. R.D. Lawrence Place, and the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, would not exist without the support we receive from a wide base of volunteers, businesses that have made substantial donations over the years, public participation and of course the media, which brings to the community the news coverage we depend on. Living and working in this county is more often than not like walking on sunshine. Brigitte Gall actually had a far more colourful way to put that sentiment at the recent Arts Gala and those of you who were there, will know exactly why it's best not to repeat it here.

Sincerely,
 Sheryl Loucks
 R.D. Lawrence Place Coordinator

Watch Your Tanks

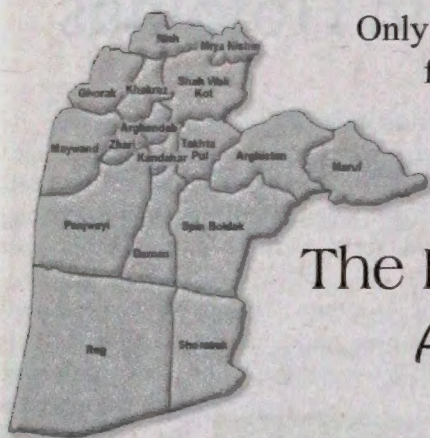
Dear Editor:

This is just a heads up.... In the last week Nurses on night shift at the Bancroft Manor and a number of local car dealers had gas taken from their cars... the way it is done now is to drill a hole in your gas tank and drain it.... So not only do you not have gas anymore but you also have to replace your gas tank... so be careful where you leave your vehicles overnight..... I'm sure the price of gas is going to make this escalate.....

If their doing this in a small town like Bancroft, what are they doing in the larger centres? So by the looks of it buying locking gas caps just may not work anymore.

Your friend
 Don Outram Tory Hill, Ontario, Canada.

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Only there a short time and already a funeral of a fellow soldier...

The Road to Kandahar A Soldier's Journal

by Captain David Beatty

Transition

Over the past week, the rotation of personnel in Kandahar Air Field (KAF) has been the focus of effort for many agencies and for individuals themselves. As the Air Movements personnel coordinate the move of personnel and equipment into and out of theatre, those who just got off the plane must also start to adjust to the plus 40 degree Celsius weather (and the odd sand storm).

In the case of those who arrived on 7 May, they came off the aircraft into the intense heat and immediately dropped off their personal baggage. They then had to join the remainder of the personnel already in KAF for the ramp ceremony for Cpl Mike Starker who was killed on 6 May 2008 during an insurgent attack near Zharey District, Afghanistan.

Ramp ceremonies are a sombre affair. While the pictures may make the national news, attending one is quite different. KAF is a very busy place at all times, day and night. There are fighter aircraft taking off and landing, helicopters buzzing around and transport aircraft landing and off loading equipment. The activity never stops, and the noise never stops.

But at 1900hrs local time, the entire base went quiet as over 1000 personnel from over 34 countries gathered on the airstrip to say farewell to Cpl Starker. The engine sound from the LAV III which carried his body to the ramp was the only sound, but then it too went quiet. His comrades carried his body to the aircraft, as is tradition. Everyone saluted as the procession covered the last 100m and carefully placed his coffin into the back of the Canadian CC130 Hercules aircraft (which had only recently arrived and disembarked individuals rotating into Afghanistan).

Cpl Starker, a medic from Calgary Alberta was on his way home, carried by his friends and mourned by many. As his body was secured in the aircraft and the ramp raised up, life on KAF returned to normal. ■



The Tragic Side of Kandahar



Corporal Mike Starker's body is transported to KAF, then carefully carried into the Hercules for the trip home.

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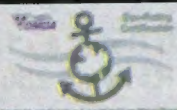
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Bancroft Uranium Looks to Increase Their Claim Holdings

"If this continues ...
McGuinty will have a
jail full of people"

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

Right on the heels of announcing their metallurgical test results last week, Bancroft Uranium officially announced on Tuesday that the company will be increasing the size of its claim holdings in proximity to their Monmouth Project in Haliburton County. The announcement has definitely raised the ire of groups protesting any exploration or mining activity in the area.

In a news release on May 5th, Bancroft Uranium (the Company) announced that reports on metallurgical tests conducted on samples of uranium-bearing Monmouth rock indicate that 91.4 percent recovery of the uranium can be achieved through simple gravity separation. These results far exceed tests conducted in 1969 which indicated an 82.1 percent recovery rate.

The Company has now implemented a land acquisition program comprised of claim staking all prospective ground that ties onto and is in proximity to the Monmouth Uranium Project. The initial size of the Monmouth claim block and the Company's land position of 2,700 acres is being expanded to 4,200 acres.

In their press release the Company says the additional acreage is a reflection of the positive nature of the initial analyses from drill data compiled from their spring program. In conjunction with the staking program, Bancroft Uranium is having ongoing discussions with other uranium exploration companies that have holdings in the area and they are "aggressively seeking joint venture opportunities

with groups exploring in the area."

Bancroft Uranium management believe that companies with mutual interests in developing uranium deposits could potentially create a central milling and processing facility that would serve various parties more cost effectively.

FUME (Fight Uranium Mining & Exploration) founders Robin Simpson and Christine Atrill say, "This is not good news." While Simpson and Atrill don't have

specifics on what the company is optioning, they assume from the Company's announcement that they will be claiming more private property, including the couple's own land and that of their neighbours.

Simpson says "We have always maintained that should an exploration company try to come onto our land or that of our

neighbours, we will blockade. After seeing the wasteland that was left after exploration of the Monmouth Uranium project site, there is no way that we will sit back and allow them to do the same to our land."

"If Premier McGuinty continues to allow this rape of the land, he will have a jail full of people whose rights are being trampled," said Simpson.

The FUME founders maintain that Bancroft Uranium has lied to the people of Haliburton from the start. According to Simpson the Company said they wouldn't stake private land which has not been the case. "They said they were drilling 15 holes, but they drilled as many as 50."

"They (Bancroft Uranium) said they are environmentally conscious people. Take a look at their exploration site, or look at our website later this week," said Simpson. FUME's website is www.fighturanium.com.

For further Uranium stories see pages 10 & 25

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Minden Hills in a State of Readiness

"Part of good emergency planning is to try to get people to be self sufficient for the first 72 hours."

Ready to respond! That's what a Municipality should be whenever it is threatened with a state of emergency whether perceived by residents or a real and imminent threat. Minden Fire Chief Doug Schell is the community's Emergency Measures Coordinator and he says, Minden is ready to respond.

Comforting words to residents looking out at the Gull River creeping toward their homes or whose basements are flooding; residents who are questioning the wisdom and decisions of Trent Severn Waterway personnel and are living through a nail-biting time wondering if another log will be pulled and the flood waters continue to rise.

Last week Reeve Jim McMahon expressed his confidence in Municipal road and fire crews, emergency response personnel and staff who would be ready to go if the need arises. Even better is the fact that

the Municipality has an Emergency Plan in accordance with the requirements of Ontario's Emergency Management Act. Each municipality has their own unique Emergency Response Plan that is usually developed with the cooperation of Emergency Management Ontario.

In order to protect community residents, businesses and visitors the plan outlines a coordinated emergency response by various groups and agencies under the direction of a Municipal Control Group. Extraordinary arrangements and procedures outlined in the plan are distinct from the normal day to day operations of Municipal staff and emergency personnel.

Under the Emergency Management Act an emergency means "A situation or an impending situation caused by the forces of nature, an accident, and an intentional act or otherwise that constitutes a danger of major proportions to life or property."

The potential for an emergency is usually discovered by either police or fire services that would likely be among the first called to a scene of an actual or potential emergency. The Reeve or an alternate member of the Municipal Control Group would be contacted, the group would assemble and a decision made on whether a state of emergency actually exists, whether a declaration of emergency should be declared and the plan implemented.

Every municipal official and department as well as outside agencies have assigned responsibilities that kick into gear during an emergency, although those responsibilities may vary depending on the type of emergency. Through a coordinated effort with organizations like the OPP, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, Board of Education, Parks Canada, Hydro One, the County, various government officials and agencies or any other business or individual, the Municipal Control Group will direct whatever action is necessary to minimize the effects of the emergency.

Haliburton County also has its own Emergency Response Plan which would be activated in an emergency that has county-wide consequences. Each municipality's response would then be channeled through the County. The County, and indeed the Province are also available to provide assistance and support to the municipalities when needed.

Many municipalities across the province have taken their planning a step further than the basic Emergency Response

Plan. Risk analyses are conducted and smaller, more specific plans developed to handle circumstances that pose the greatest threat to the individual community. In the case of Minden Hills one of these specific plans could include a response to flooding. Other examples of specific plans that could be developed depending on the risk analysis might include responses to the effects of a hurricane, extended loss of power or contaminated water systems.

According to Schell, Minden Hills has completed a risk analysis. However, he says the Municipality hasn't yet gone to the next step with individual response plans being developed.

Schell says no state of emergency was declared last week, but regular contact is being maintained with Trent Severn Waterway officials as lakes reached their 'redlines' for storage capacity. Schell said "it's a day to day situation."

In conversation with CAO Gerry Morrison, he voiced a bit of frustration in trying to make everyone happy. People along the river are concerned with rising waters, but his office is also getting complaints from people on the lakes where water is also rising and docks floating away. He said,

"The long and short of it is that the Municipality has zero control over the waterway system." He added however that TSW do whatever they feel is best for all concerned. Morrison said he was pleased with the information flowing from the Ministry of Natural Resources, saying that he received updates every day.

Schell said that part of good emergency planning is to try to get people to be self sufficient for the first 72 hours of an emergency. He said, "If people can look after themselves during that period, it gives the Control Group time to gather resources while looking after those with the most critical needs."

And this is where some difficulty may arise. Despite assurances that municipal staff are ready to assist, residents have been calling the emergency number provided by the Municipality and are often getting no response. But no state of emergency has been declared as yet and because of that no extra bodies have been assigned to help fill sand bags or answer the phone after hours. Schell says he checks for messages on a regular basis, but no one has left a message for him to act on.

Morrison said if the Fire Department gets a call from a senior or someone who needs assistance, they will do their utmost to assist. Otherwise, at this time if you are capable of handling and filling sand bags it is left up to the individual to handle. And according to Morrison some people have taken advantage of that.

As of Tuesday morning neither Morrison nor Schell have been advised of anyone being flooded.

The Minden Hills Emergency Response Plan is available for viewing by the general public. Copies of the plan can be viewed at the main Township Office. ■

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter



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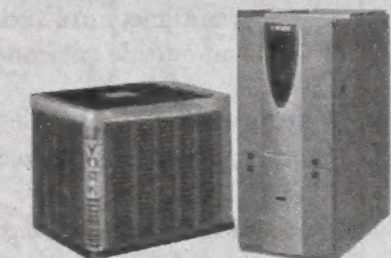
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Construction on County Road 21



As many Highlanders have already noticed, large sections of County Road 21 are under construction. The construction zone, which spans from Soyer's Lake Road to Peninsula Road, will exist until June 9th, when work is scheduled to finish.

"There will be portions of the road down to one lane," said County engineering services manager Roy Haig. "But construction crews will keep traffic flowing. It will take longer to travel between Minden and Haliburton. People should plan for a ten to fifteen minute delay."

Crews will be working from 7am to 6pm,

Mondays to Fridays. Work may end earlier on Fridays, in order to accommodate excess traffic caused by cottagers. The most congested portion of the highway will likely be near Wigamog Road, where crews will be excavating. "The digging should only take one or two days, so it shouldn't cause delays for too long," said Haig. The majority of the work being done along the highway is resurfacing and paving, though some culverts will be replaced.

As drivers traverse construction zones, they need to consider the safety of workers.

Speed limits are reduced from 80Kph to 60Kph, and speeding fines are doubled. Speeding in construction zones is dangerous for both drivers and workers, and is not tolerated by the police.

As drivers are confronted with delays and traffic congestion, they may consider taking alternative routes. "People could try to get between Minden and Haliburton by going through Ingoldsby, or using County Road 1, but these routes would not be very efficient short cuts, and wouldn't save people much time," Haig said. "The best thing for drivers to do is leave a little earlier."

Drivers should get used to construction delays, because there will be many this summer. Over the next few months, crews will be working on many local roads, include Country Roads two, four, fourteen, and twenty. ■



County of Haliburton Roads Department

Qualified individuals interested in obtaining a CUPE Local 1960 position as a Seasonal Labourer within the County of Haliburton Roads Department are invited to submit written applications **no later than Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.** to the attention of:

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The successful candidate will have experience with chainsaw handling, traffic control and be able to perform heavy manual labour duties in an outside environment.

We thank all who apply for their participation in this process, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

Kawagama Lake Cottage Association Requests Tighter Controls

Liz Daniels
Staff Reporter

"All the owners have rights, not just the members." (Janis Parker)

Chuck McDonald and Eric Millar met with the Dysart Council Monday to give a report on the activities of the Kawagama Lake Cottage Association (KLCA) and make a request for Council's consideration. The KLCA recently polled their members about establishing *Shoreline Site Alteration and Vegetation Removal* regulations and they are now asking Council to consider passing a by law that will set shoreline controls.

McDonald, who chairs the Development & Municipal Relations committee, confirmed that the KCLA had no issues with development on the lake at this time. He thanked Council for their support of the KLCA Lake Plan passed in 2004 which was the first lake planning process in the County. McDonald said, "the plan has essentially become what drives the KLCA and we're very proud of it."

McDonald spoke of the Association's accomplishments since their plan was published. One of their activities has been monitoring the Lake of Bays site alteration and vegetation removal plan. He said many of their members were concerned about stripping or clearing of trees from properties. Their Water Quality Director has also been very busy working with the Lake of Bays Association on their bacteriological study, just to keep informed.

According to McDonald the KLCA has also struck a committee to review their constitution and by-laws as they have discovered a number of gaps. McDonald said, "New people on the board don't have a sense of the Board's operating mechanisms and what we pride ourselves on is not always evident." McDonald said for that reason they have prepared an administrative manual outlining their operating guidelines and communication processes.

Getting down to the business at hand, McDonald said the Association is interested in determining whether shoreline alterations and vegetation removal regulations should be included in the development permitting process. To that end a questionnaire was sent out to all their members asking whether both the Dysart and Algonquin Highlands Councils should be approached about putting by-laws in place. According to McDonald 78 percent (387) of their members voted and 83 percent of those were in favour of these controls.

In essence what is being proposed is that a by-law would be developed by Dysart et al and Algonquin Highlands regulating site alteration and vegetation removal within a "shoreline yard." The proposed by-law, based on a successful model in Lake of Bays, would require that a permit be obtained before anyone does any site alteration or vegetation removal within the shoreline yard in wetlands, on steep slopes or in any identified natural heritage areas.

Removal of vegetation within the shoreline buffer would be allowed to create an access pathway not to exceed 3 metres in width, where the ecological or visual functions of the buffer would not be compromised or where a written opinion is obtained from an arborist or professional forester. No permit would be required for pruning or removal of dead or dangerous trees.

According to documentation provided by McDonald and Millar, the intent of the by law is to maintain 65 percent of the property's shoreline frontage in a vegetative buffer wherever possible.

Councillor Janis Parker asked how many property owners were on the lake and how many

of them were Association members. In response to McDonald's numbers of 900 owners and 600 members, Parker said the vote actually represented less than 50 percent of the owners. Parker said, "All the owners have rights, not just the members." Millar, KLCA's Director of Lake Planning commented that it is becoming increasingly difficult to contact property owners, particularly when many of the properties have changed hands.

Reeve Murray Fearrey asked how the KLCA proposed the by law be enforced. McDonald suggested that follow up would be required if there was a complaint made or if an application for construction or renovations was made. A site inspection could be conducted and the owner required to replant a percentage of the shoreline depending on the circumstances. He said that Lake of Bays is finding their by-law has some teeth even though they're not handling every infraction.

Deputy Reeve Bill Davis commended the Association for taking this issue forward to their members. Davis said, "This is the right thing to do, but what about enforcement? A by law is only as good as its enforcement and likely you'll discover some pitfalls along the way." McDonald suggested that if Council had some concerns the plan could be tried in some areas to see how it works.

Council agreed to give the matter some consideration. ■

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Uranium Mining, Ontario Mining Act Taken to Task

Terrance Gavan

Staff Reporter

The ghost of Howard Beale was resurrected in Haliburton last Saturday afternoon. Beale (aka actor Peter Finch), you may recall, summoned up years of societal angst when he juked into a convulsive monologue on live TV, as a disillusioned news anchor in the satirical 70s movie *Network*.

"All I know is that first you've got to get mad," said Beale, in his seminal soliloquy. "Open the window, and stick your head out, and yell: 'I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore'."

The active and growing anti-uranium lobby in Haliburton Highlands and eastern Ontario is, to put it bluntly, "mad as hell," about the looming specter of uranium mining in this area. Grassroots organizers plan to let big government and big mining know that the windows are open and a growing number of voting residents are convening on the sills.

They plan to hearken Beale. They also plan to use pen, paper, the tenets of Henry David Thoreau and Walden Pond and the power of their franchise to let politicians know just how mad they are. They plan to step forward alongside their First Nations' brothers and sisters. They plan to stand united. But mostly, they intend to use their collective voice. And shout their disapproval.

They are hoping that Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty will be forced to listen.

To that end, an august and informed panel of anti-uranium lobbyists gathered at Fleming College last Saturday to discuss options vis-à-vis the continued staking of uranium claims and subsequent road-building, drilling and slashing of private and crown lands in central and eastern Ontario.

El Nino Ventures with CanAm Uranium Corp has claimed a total of 9,765 acres in Faraday, Cardiff and Monmouth townships and have already explored on two of the properties. Another company, Bancroft Uranium Inc. has just completed drilling on their 3,500-acre claim in Tory Hill.

The staked lands are in areas where the province of Ontario owns the subsurface mineral rights, including Crown lands. A lot of cottagers and residents at the meeting were left non-plussed when they were told that subsurface mineral rights on private

property is the sole property of the Ontario government and that mining interests may apply for access on the basis of a small piece of paper.

The companies simply require a \$25 prospecting license to stake and claim land for mineral exploration in Ontario. After staking the land, a mining company may go in with bulldozers and road-building machinery and then begin active drilling on the site. Mining companies need only give 24-hour notice to owners (and the province) before they begin bulldozing, road making and subsequent drilling operations. Tree removal is one of the side-products of such excavations.

A movie shown at the conference last Saturday displayed in graphic detail exactly what kind of damage is inflicted when big mining companies begin work on a staked piece of property. The movie showed makeshift roadwork, capped drill holes, boulders strewn over a landscape bereft of trees and the various and sundry detritus of ad hoc development which transformed a section of pristine land into what might pass for a section of Vimy Ridge circa 1917.

The slow panning of steady cam over the area drew low moans of reproach from some members of the audience. The listeners were further jarred when told that the mining interests had absolutely no onus to restore any of the excavated and ripped-up property should they deem the site unsuitable for further mining operations.

Representatives from Fight Uranium Mining and Exploration (FUME), the Paudash Lake Conservation Association (PLCA), a doctor, a lawyer, a representative from the First Nations, two area Reeves, a retired prison chaplain and cottagers rounded out the head table guests. All came armed and fortified with beefy agendas for action against what they maintain is a preemptive strike by big business and big government destined to leave a gaping hole in the quality of life here in cottage country.

The panelists left an indelible impression on the crowd of about 75 souls gathered on a warm and sunny afternoon at Fleming College. The speakers put forward a working plan centering on

the continued petitioning of government for changes to the antiquated Ontario Mining Act, which is a legacy left over from the mid 1800s.

Highlands East Reeve Dave Burton, in his opening remarks, told the crowd that it will be necessary for municipalities, local residents and cottagers, along with members of the First Nations to come together to present an effective bulwark to the mining interests, who seem dedicated to reopening the Highlands watershed to helter-skelter uranium exploration and mining. Highlands East Council penned a petition to the province on April 8 of this year requesting the "Province of Ontario and Premier Dalton McGuinty to initiate an immediate moratorium on uranium mineral prospecting, exploration mining or other processing in Highlands East and its watershed."

Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey was on hand to welcome the panelists and guests. Dysart et al Council is also calling for a moratorium on uranium mining and Fearrey said that these types of grassroots meetings will be instrumental in moving the province to action.

Similar petitions, including ones initiated by the cities of Ottawa and Kingston are growing support across all areas of eastern Ontario. It's estimated that the 20 municipalities, which have passed resolutions for a moratorium, encompass about one and a half million residents. "There's so many

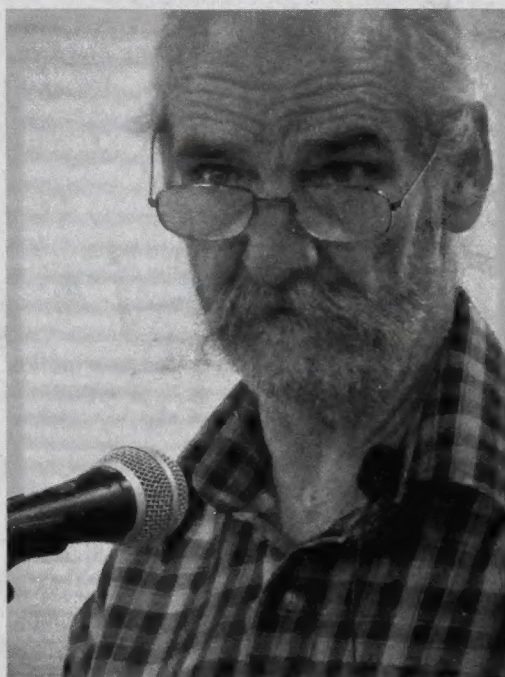
things we don't know, and a meeting like this will allow us to know more," said Fearrey, who had to leave early because of prior commitments.

Reeve Burton said that if changes are to be made to the antiquated Ontario Mining Act, the impetus must first come from grassroots participation and he congratulated the people responsible for bringing the group together at Fleming College last Saturday afternoon. One of those organizers was Dave's wife Joan, who chaired the meeting.

"We have to participate in and foster activities that promote effective and responsible local government," said Barton.

Valerie Hunnius, representing the Paudash Lake Conservation Association (PLCA), said that the multi-faceted legacies deriving from former mining operations, which were in vogue back in the 1950s, are with us in many forms today. "This is the second time around for this county," said Hunnius. She said that several mine sites opened in the late 50s and early 60s in the Paudash area, but most lasted only about four to six years before world prices, mineral depletion and costs of extraction rendered them moribund.

She said that a lot of the mines have still not been safely decommissioned and that both federal and provincial branches of government have been loathe to take a stand on the



FUME Activist Robin Simpson

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Story cont'd... pg. 11 ... >>

Fleming College Rumbles with Dissent on Weekend

>> ... from pg. 10

safe decommissioning of the mines. She said that leftover tailing ponds are now being investigated as health hazards. She added that local high school students are hosting bush parties and bonfires on overgrown tailing pond sites. Vestiges of radon gasses have been found in homes some three decades after active uranium mining activity has ceased. Well water is being investigated for traces of uranium contamination.

Fight Uranium Mining and Exploration (FUME) activists Christine Atrill and Robin Simpson said that they came to the Haliburton Highlands area a year and a half ago to revel in the natural beauty.

"I came to find peace and found uranium mining instead," said Atrill, who along with her partner Simpson, started FUME after they found mining stakes on their property.

"About a year ago we noticed slashing activity and found that our land had been staked. We want to change the Mining Act and protect First Nation and private property rights," said Atrill. "I had no idea when I came here that a prospector could come onto your land and stake a claim and that they could begin mining operations with no consultation with the owners."

Simpson is an artist and artisan with a long history of involvement in municipal politics and administration. Simpson has been involved over the last year with an extensive water-testing project. He said that a number of residents who live in close proximity to former uranium mining operations have found traces of uranium in their wells as a result of the water tests done through the auspices of FUME. This, in spite of government and mining company assurances that there are no lasting residual effects from uranium mining on the surrounding environs. He said wells in proximity to former mining operations have been found with varying traces of uranium. "So we don't welcome uranium mines here," said Simpson.

John Kittle makes up one half of a middle-aged retired couple.

Like Atrill and Simpson, John and his wife Sheila were thrust into pitched battle with uranium mining interests and the Government of Ontario out of necessity.

The Kittles

and First Nations blocked access, the mining company took us to court. The Ontario government and the big mining interests are determined to have uranium mining proceed despite the residents' wishes."

Kittle told the audience that Ontario mining practices are anachronistic. "The Ontario Mining Act is a throwback to the wild west days, but it's still on the books," said Kittle.

"They can come onto your land and they can make roads and they can blast and if you try to stop them you can be arrested on your own property," he added. "And the best part is, Ontario is advertising it to the world. Ontario has declared a holiday on environmental assessments. No one is monitoring the mining companies in Ontario and we have made petitions to several agencies. Nobody in government is taking any responsibility for mining practices," said Kittle. "The result is that mining companies are on the honour system."

He added that Cominco, one of the largest uranium producers in Canada had three major accidents between 2003 and 2006. He said that the Auditor General has already deemed about 4,000 decommissioned mines as unsafe hazards.

Kittle said that an existing mining operation in northern Saskatchewan is currently meeting Canada's nuclear reactor forecast for the foreseeable future and beyond.

"We don't need Ontario uranium to keep the lights on in Ontario," said Kittle. He allowed that other factors are pushing the renewed interest in exploration and mining.

Indeed, China's desire for nuclear energy is currently fueling a rise in the price of uranium. Kittle says that it's a question of "greed and not need" and adds that there is something wrong with the whole scenario.

"We think this is wrong in so many ways. It's wrong that our rights as citizens are being eroded; it's wrong that since the early 1980s Ontario has had a holiday on environmental assessment; it's wrong that seven First Nations' leaders are in jail for protesting this," said Kittle.

"The province of Ontario should be ashamed." ■
See addition coverage on Pg. 25



Sharbot Lake Activist John Kittle

Highlands East Reeve Dave Burton

live on Snow Road

not far from the Sharbot Lake standoff

between the Ardoch and Obaadjiwan Algonquin First Nations and Frontenac Ventures Corp. over uranium exploration in Eastern Ontario.

"I am an eco-terrorist," chuckled John as he stood and addressed the crowd. "That's what the Frontenac mining company has labeled us," said John. Kittle says that although he has never fancied himself as an activist, he now accepts the label as a badge of honor. John and Sheila, along with other local cottagers and residents, who are neighbors of the Ardoch and Obaadjiwan Algonquin First Nations made history of sorts last year when they stood on the ramparts in lockstep with First Nation protesters. He said that more linkage between First Nations people and residents will be needed if concerns over uranium mining are to be effectively heard in court and in Parliament.

"You have to understand that a small group of people are making decisions which are going to affect us down the road," said Kittle. "In the area where I live, 30,000 acres of prime crown land has been staked for uranium mining. When local settlers

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Battle of the Books



Lyn Winans

Photojournalist

Twenty-two students from ASES based to the Algonquin Theatre in Huntsville on Monday to cheer on their classmates and regional winners "The Masked Ladies" during the TLDSB Battle of the Books championship. The enthusiastic fans created and donned masks declaring

themselves the "Masked Spectators" to demonstrate their support for the local school team. Although "The Masked Ladies" were eventually ousted in the semi-final round, their enthusiastic following and coach, Ms. Sue Ferren, were proud of the dedication, knowledge and sports(wo)manship they exhibited throughout all levels of competition. ■



Putting a Twist On a Well-Known Tale

Students Get a Fair Share of Laughs During "Twinderella" Performances

Students from J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School put on a crowd-pleasing performance in their play, "Twinderella", on May 7 and May 9 at the jam-packed Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion.

The story, loosely based around the plot of Cinderella, incorporated a few added twists and turns into its plot.

Students had been rehearsing their hilarious take on the famous fairy tales since January under the direction of teacher Peggy Flowers, with the assistance of actor Curtis Eastmure. ■

Mark Arike

Staff Reporter



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Garden Centre in Dysart asked to Comply with Development Requirements

Liz Daniels
Staff Reporter

"If the costs are too high I'll just fold up and go."
(Paul Carey)

Paul Carey's garden centre, built on a rented property at the corner of Hwy 118 and the Harburn Road, is being asked by Dysart Council to tow the development line. According to Dysart Planner Pat Martin and Chief Building Official (CBO) Dan Sayers the business keeps growing with no permits or site plan agreement in place. Carey said "I was told to bite the bullet or come to Council."

Martin said the original greenhouse needed a building permit. According to Martin the business keeps growing with no permits in place, which triggers the question of whether a site plan agreement is needed. Martin said, "Other garden centres in the Municipality have followed the proper channels and haven't developed in such a haphazard manner."

Carey said, "We've had buildings up every year. Some are taken down each fall but a greenhouse has been up since the business started." Carey wanted to know who had complained about his business. He also said he wasn't sure what permits were needed as the buildings come down each year. He added that he had been given no direction on the

matter by the Municipality. Carey said "There's no difference from last year other than a shade structure which will also come down at the end of the year. Carey said he had three poly greenhouses but they are only up for six months of the year."

Councillor Janis Parker commented that there were more portable buildings this year than had



been on site in the past. Carey agreed, saying he had erected a 20' x 80' portable building but stressed that the building wasn't permanent.

In response to questions about what required a development permit, CBO Sayers said, "Any type of building needs a development permit regardless of being temporary and is subject to

site plan control." Sayers said, "We can't allow the development to keep growing and growing until the garden centre fills the lot." Sayers also advised Council that other seasonal garden centres in the area have permits and the same permit applies each year.

Martin confirmed that a site plan agreement would show how the property is being managed and where buildings and storage areas are located. Councillor Steve Pogue also informed Carey that while there was no restriction on the number of buildings, the zone had restrictions on the percentage of lot coverage and a site plan agreement would address this.

Councillor Derek Knowles said the original greenhouses should have had permits from day one, and that even if the plastic was taken down in the winter the building structure remained in place. Knowles said, "If everyone developed in this manner we would totally lose control of things." He also told Carey, "This is a matter of continuity and fairness. You're here because you're in contravention of our by-law."

Martin explained to Carey that a site plan agreement would control the type of development as well as the density of lot coverage. She said, "A site plan agreement also deals with screening, security and

expectations of how the development would proceed over time."

Reeve Murray Fearrey asked how an agreement or development permit could be issued in time for this season and a discussion ensued about temporary measures or getting a commitment from Carey that a site plan agreement would be entered into. Offers were made for drawings showing measurements of size and placement of all buildings including setbacks, but Fearrey confirmed that Carey must apply for some kind of permit.

Several problems became clear as the discussion ensued. According to Sayers, a development permit can't be issued without a Site Plan Agreement or waiver of the need for one. Martin also commented that a site plan agreement must be registered against the property and a surveyor would be needed. Carey wanted to know just how much all of this would cost him saying, "If the costs are too high I'll just fold up and go."

Despite these comments, Council was firm in their desire for a 'level playing field' and wanted site plan controls on the property. Martin agreed to contact Mr. Carey to try and work through the problem. ■

Get Your Camping Permits!

Make Sure to Book a Camp Site Online Or Over the Phone

A "user-pay/reservation" system is now in effect for those wishing to camp on Crown lands and municipal shoreline road allowances within the 1,800 hectare area known as the 'Poker Lakes'. These lakes are situated in the geographic Township of Hindon and the County of Haliburton, between the communities of Carnarvon and Bracebridge.

Back in November of 2007, the Township of Minden Hills in partnership with the Township of Algonquin Highlands and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources passed bylaws in support of the proposal to implement this system. The main objectives of the system include keeping controlled management of area campsite and canoe routes, and to have a self-funded sustainable management program.

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is managing the booking service that allows people to reserve campsites that are managed by the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails (HHWT).

Both areas around the Frost Centre and the Poker Lakes serve as year-round destinations for campers. The HHWT has a mandate that states they are dedicated to the protection and improvement of the canoe route and camping environment throughout the Haliburton Highlands.

"It's a pay-per-person fee," says Christine Carruthers, Administrative Clerk for the Township of Algonquin Highlands. This fee is \$10 per adult, \$8 per senior, \$5 per youth (6-17), and those six and under are free.

Some of the lakes included in this user-pay/reservation system include: Cinder Lake, Bentshoe Lake and Big East Lake. In the area of the Frost Centre, there are currently 174 camp sites.

"I began taking reservations since the beginning of February. Now it's really starting to get busy," said Carruthers.

Because of staff, volunteers and partners of the HHWT, improvements have been made to signage, toilets and parking around the camp sites.

Information on the camping permit requirements and the reservation system can be found online at www.algonquinhighlands.ca/ water or by contacting the HHWT at 705-766-9033. Highlights on the Website include fees, date and site specific reservations, and parking/boat launching information. ■

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

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Spring Sneaks into Minden with Annual Hike



Minden citizens took advantage of the warm spring weather on Friday May 9 and participated in the 14th annual Sneaker Day hike. Led by local bagpiper Jim Milton, more than 100 people departed from the Village Green, and enjoyed a two-kilometre walk through downtown Minden.

Traditionally, Sneaker Day participants walk along Minden's marshland trails. However, high water levels and flooding prevented participants from traversing the marsh this year. Walkers did not mind the change of scenery, since the new route allowed them to admire the artistic banners being raised in downtown Minden.

"This event is just for the health of it," said event organizer Sue Shikaze. "It's not a fundraiser, and there's no money involved. People don't need to register, or do anything like that. All they have to do is come out, walk, and get active."

Organizers considered the event a huge success, largely due to the huge amount of school children from Archie Stouffer that participated. Many different school classes were involved, and at 11:30 a.m., the Village Green was awash with children who were eager to begin the walk.

As most Minden citizens realize, Sneaker Day has a colourful tradition in the village. Perhaps the most sacred part of this history is the Golden Shoe trophy. For many years there has been a rivalry between the CIBC and TD Canada Trust over ownership of the trophy. Whichever bank has the highest percentage of their staff involved in Sneaker Day wins the trophy. Last year there was a tie, which made the trophy fiercely contested this time around. Seven Minden CIBC employees participated this year, while only one TD Canada Trust employee was involved. The Golden Shoe Trophy was therefore awarded to jubilant CIBC staff.

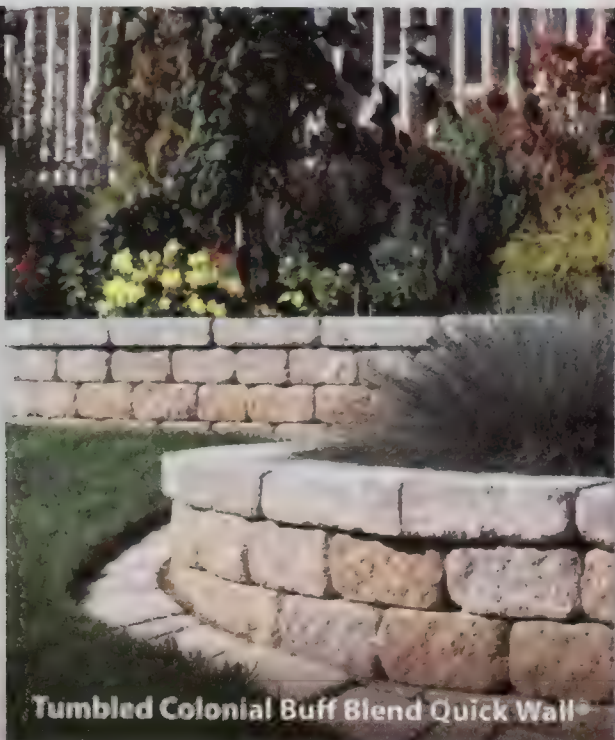
Although only the CIBC staff was rewarded with a trophy, there were a wide variety of prizes and gifts for other participants. Many walkers received free T-shirts and pedometers, while there was free food and drink for all. The giveaways were kindly donated by local businesses such as Dollo's IGA and Pharmasave. The OPP were also very generous, donating their time to direct traffic.

"A lot of donators and volunteers have made today's event a success," said organizer Gwen Cox. "A lot of people came out to get active, and had a great time walking around the village."



Sue Shikaze, Gwen Cox, and Maureen Ireland with the Gold Shoe Trophy

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Mapping the Highlands

Warden Harrison hosts her 1st Annual County Breakfast

Haliburton County Warden Eleanor Harrison hosted her 1st Annual Warden's Breakfast last week at the Delta Pinestone before an appreciative crowd of about 70 local business and government leaders. The big news of

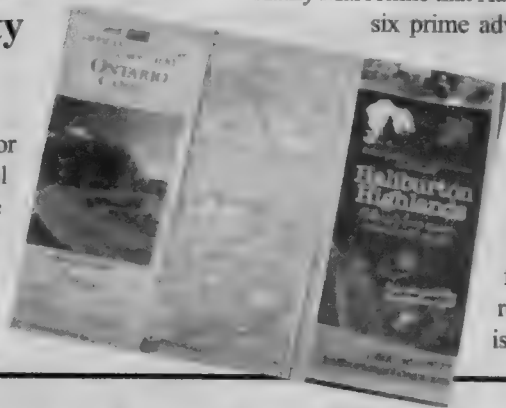
the day was the announcement by Ontario Tourism Partnership's Kathy Marcelline that Haliburton County had snared one of only six prime advertising spots in the new 2008-2010 Ontario Road Map.

Marcelline pointed out that the coveted spots sell out in minutes – and congratulated Haliburton County's Director of Economic Development Bob Smith and Tourism Marketing Co-ordinator Amy Brohm for their part in securing the ads. The road map is issued every two years, and is the most popular traveling document

the Ministry produces. And, as Warden Harrison pointed out, many people keep previous editions of the maps in their glove compartments for more than their suggested shelf life of two years. The Haliburton ad is also striking in its use of colour – and really does stand out.

As reported on Page 2B, Bob Smith and County CAO Jim Wilson also took the opportunity to update the gathering on how hi-speed Internet access for the County was progressing.

Warden Harrison was full of praise for the work of the County's officials in the tourism area, as well as their efforts to entice more businesses. She also praised the work of Volunteers Dennis Casey and Bob Nichol in spearheading the County's drive to win the 2010 Ontario Summer Games. The winning jurisdiction will be announced shortly. Harrison also exhorted businesses and County citizens to develop a "customer first" attitude in order to capitalize on tourism and business opportunities. Finally, in response to the excellent turnout, the Warden announced that this breakfast event would indeed become an annual affair. ■



Old Stuff Leads to New Adventures for ASES Winner

Archie Stouffer Student Wins National Award

Laura Pottier off to Alberta in the Summer

When Laura Pottier gets back to school next September, she will have an interesting response to the age-old question, "What did you do on your summer break?" The ASES grade seven student will be flying out to Alberta this summer,

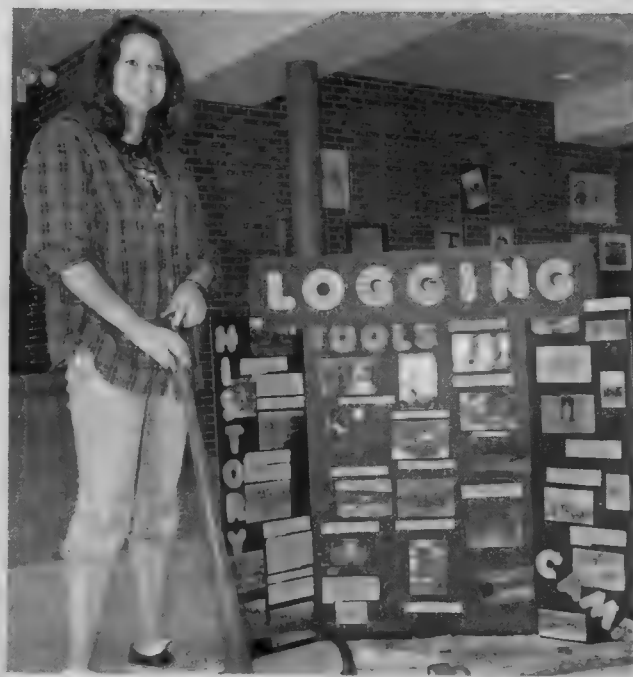
free!

Laura's project "Logging in Haliburton County" was chosen to represent the Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) during the annual board "Historica Fair" held earlier this month in Lindsay. As the National Historica Fair award recipient, Laura will travel, all expenses paid, to Lethbridge in July to spend a week with other winners from across Canada. The award is sponsored by the Historica Foundation.

Other County winners included:
RBC Aboriginal Award – Barry Stromberg, Peru Shah & Chrissy Shaw (ASES)
Ontario Genealogy Award – Ann Marie Warden (JDHES)
Quebec 400 Award – Ali Hicks (JDHES) Shannon Bittner (ASES)
Imperial Oil Award – Jessica Miscio (ASES) Connor Marsden (JDHES)

The Historica Foundation of Canada was launched in October 1999: its mission is to help all Canadians come to know the fascinating stories that make our country unique. It encourages the best possible Canadian history education by providing or supporting programs and resources that inspire Canadians to explore their history.

Historica Fairs begin as hands-on, independent research projects. Students take on the roles of historian, interpreter, storyteller, and myth-maker. They learn and teach others about Canadian heroes and legends, milestones in their communities, or family achievements. ■



Above:
Archie Stouffer Grade 7 student Laura Pottier stand in front of her prize-winning project.



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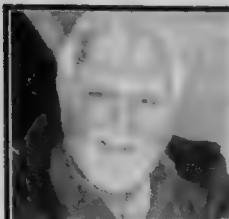
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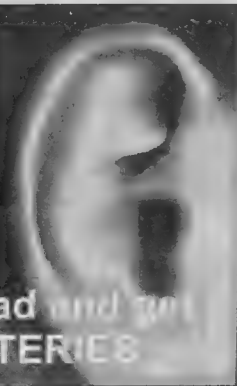
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Archie Stouffer Spring Festival



Photos By:
Lyn Winans

The annual Archie Stouffer Spring Carnival took place last Thursday night with well over 200 students, friends, parents and teachers in attendance. Sponge throwing, face painting, burgers, popcorn and ice cream were all available.

And over \$3000 was raised from a generous community to help with school literary projects. ■

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Area Schools Prepare Children for Launch

By Laura Salverda

County Voice

Area three- and four-year-olds are preparing to launch their new school careers. May is the month when County-wide elementary schools host their Kindergarten orientation events, and all of the school administrators stress the importance of these early education programs.

Cardiff Elementary School Principal Elaine Fournier said their kindergarten event was held on May 14, and the school welcomed new Kindergarten students and their parents to a special 9 a.m. classroom orientation event.

Fournier said there were new features added to the annual Cardiff Kindergarten orientation day this year - the parents were welcomed to sit in circle "to get a feel for a day in the life", and then were invited to break out to experiential learning centres at various tables where they and their child could have a "hands-on experience" utilizing the materials that were contained in a "goody bag" handed out to the children on their way home.

The 'Welcome to Kindergarten' bags were provided at no cost to the schools by The Learning Partnership, a non-profit organization that supports public education across the province, and contain magnetic letters, books, crayons, scissors, a glue stick, coloured construction paper and paper pads.

Fournier said the orientation is so important to the child's Kindergarten experience, and parents don't always realize the importance of registering early.

"They think, 'Oh well, school doesn't start until September', and they'll register their child on the last day of August. What they often don't realize is what it means to their child, and the opportunity to come and visit the classroom is a very exciting thing."

Fournier said the classroom visit also helps children make an easier transition to school, and suggested that even if parents missed the actual orientation event, they can still contact the school principal and make arrangements for a tour.

Fournier said their Kindergarten registration numbers at Cardiff so far were "static."

"We always go down a little bit, and this year is about the same."

Fournier is also principal at Wilberforce Elementary School, and has organized a similar orientation event at that school, for Wednesday May 28, also beginning at 9 a.m. Again, the program invites all Kindergarten parents to visit the classroom and take in "an actual day" in the Kindergarten.

"They're invited into an actual day," Fournier said, adding that the new Kindergarten students at both schools will receive the package, while all of the children will participate in the morning's activities. She expects the activities will take up the first 100-minute block of the day, or about an hour and a half.

Peter Ferri, vice-principal of Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden, said their Kindergarten Open House will be held on May 28 from 6-7:30 p.m., and new Kindergarten students who attend with



JK
numbers
expected
to be
down
this year

their parents will also receive the learning gift bag provided by The Learning Partnership at their school. While Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in Ontario, Ferri stressed the importance of early learning for children.

"We really encourage parents to send their children to Kindergarten because of the advantages in both literacy and socialization. It really helps to build a strong base."

Ferri went on to say the literacy kit offers the opportunity to build a partnership between home and school. Current overall numbers at ASES are bucking the trend and are actually up by about 10 students, however Ferri said current numbers for their Kindergarten registration are down from last year, adding, "It's still early days."

Ferri agreed with Fournier on the importance of early registration for the students' sake, and to benefit planning.

"It's very important to our organization and staff planning."

If we have those numbers early, we don't get caught with an overcrowded classroom situation."

Lauren Alleway, an ASES Kindergarten teacher, said the event offers teachers the opportunity to model reading and learning strategies to parents and new kindergarten students through learning centres, however Alleway said the school is also hosting local family service organizations, such as SIRCH, Point in Time, Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC) and Haliburton Health Unit. Each organization will have a booth so they can meet with individual parents and discuss the services that are available in the Minden community. Alleway did stress the early learning 'goody bags' are only available to new Kindergarten students and their parents attending the event.

Stuart W. Baker Elementary School Principal Micheline Johnson described the unique orientation program her school has organized with the Haliburton OEYC, which runs on two separate days, May 22 and May 23.

The orientation program for new Junior Kindergarten students begins at 9:15 at the Ontario Early Years Centre at the Halco Plaza in Haliburton, with a presentation by a literacy specialist, before the group learns some bus safety rules. The kids will then actually get on board a school bus, and travel to SBES. Once there, the group will visit the Kindergarten classrooms and visit five different centres, before they get back on the bus and return to the OEYC for lunch. After lunch, each child will receive a book and a gift bag.

Johnson said the numbers of current registered Kindergarten students at SBES are about the same as last year, with 50 JK students and 75 SK students registered. The school currently has three Kindergarten teachers who each teach a morning and afternoon class, for a total of six. For more information about the orientation event, parents should call 457-2989.

Parents of children entering JK or SK at Stuart Baker this fall can also attend an information session on May 20 from 7-8 p.m. to find out more about the Kindergarten schedule for 2008-09. For more information on this evening contact Johnson at 457-1342. ■

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Landfill Blues

Liz Danielsen

Staff Reporter

The standard landfill hours for Sundays and holidays haven't been working for Kennisis Lake cottagers. Councillor Janis Parker brought a concern to the Dysart Council last week that had been raised at a recent Kennisis Lake Cottage Owner's Association meeting. The Association was asking Council to consider making a change in the landfill site's hours of operation.

Right now the landfill is open from 12 noon to 8:00 p.m. on Sundays and holidays. According to Parker most of the waste coming from rented cottages is dropped off before noon on Sundays. On regular days the landfill is open from 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Parker says these hours would be much better for the cottagers. If the landfill isn't open on Sunday when cottagers are leaving, they often simply dump their waste at the gates.

Deputy Reeve Bill Davis said "We finally got consensus on the landfill hours. There will always be individuals who aren't happy." And the discussion took off from there. Questions were raised about the most appropriate hours to have, how much more staff time would cost, whether a vote should be sought from all cottagers and how much it would cost to change the signs.

Finally Council passed a resolution that the summer hours at the Kennisis Lake Landfill for Sundays and Holidays would be changed to 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. effective May 18th.

During a discussion about fees and charges for disposal of waste at the landfills Councillor Steve Pogue said that he had a problem with the one-size-fits-all style of landfill site throughout the municipalities. Pogue questioned the need for fees to dispose of brush at the Harcourt dump. Comments from Pogue suggested that the Certificate of Approval for operation of the Harcourt landfill site is unique to other sites in the Municipality. He said "The CofA for the landfill is the only one that allows burning and the brush fee shouldn't apply."

Pogue also commented about residents dumping brush in the ditches to avoid paying. Council looked at different options and the wisdom of setting different rates at the landfills. The matter of whether the charges for brush should continue in Harcourt was deferred until Council's May 12th meeting.

... Or How to Keep Everyone Happy

A staff report was reviewed by Council on the 12th which indicated that fees had not been applied consistently in Harcourt, particularly when small quantities of brush were brought to the site. CAO Tammy McKelvey reported that the need for consistency for all tipping fees has been reinforced with all landfill attendants.

Mark Brohm, Landfill Manager followed up on the incident of brush being dumped in ditches and the suggestion that it may have been done to avoid paying fees. The incident apparently occurred when the landfill site was closed and according to Brohm would likely have happened with or without tipping fees in place.

While the staff has no difficulty managing the quantities of

brush in Harcourt at this time, the suggestion was raised that dropping the tipping fees could result in large quantities of brush coming to the landfill that in the past would have been chipped on site when lots were being cleared.

In the end Council agreed to leave the tipping fee for brush in the schedule and to allow staff some discretion should very small amounts of brush be brought to the Harcourt site.

It also became apparent during Council's discussion on waste management at the Harcourt landfill that brush and building materials are placed in separate piles. This raised the question whether most of the building material is chipable. If that's the case it would reduce the amount of material in the landfill. There will be more discussion of that at a subsequent meeting. ■

Mountain Lake Stewardship Plan in Final Approval Stages

Members of the Mountain Lake Property Owners Association (MLPOA) presented their Draft Stewardship Plan (A Guideline for a Healthy Lake) to Minden Council last Thursday. The MLPOA started the initial stages of planning in 2005 when it was agreed at their annual meeting that a lake plan would be beneficial. It is the hope of the Association to preserve the lake's beauty, water and wildlife and they now have a working document ready for final approval by their members.

Ruth Benson and Doug Gilpin provided copies of the document to Council for their review and comment. Gilpin advised Council that a final survey had recently been sent out to the membership asking their opinion of the draft document and seeking suggestions for improvement or for changes in priority and actions. They hope to incorporate new recommendations in the final Stewardship Plan which will be presented for approval by the membership at the Association's AGM in June.

The introduction to the plan speaks to the special character of Mountain Lake and its surrounding watershed. Words like 'deep clear water, hilly forested horizons, unspoiled cliffs and an abundance of pines, oaks, maples and cedars' bring the need to protect the lake to the forefront from threats like inappropriate development, water pollution, diminishing fish populations, excessive boat traffic and urban style landscaping.

The draft document includes the results of an extensive survey that prioritizes the values of the people living on Mountain Lake. Residents have identified what they feel to be the greatest negative trends over the past five years, trends in shoreline appearance, the need for municipal controls as well as visioning for the future.

Other priorities dealt with in some detail in the draft plan include water quality, fish and wildlife, recommendations for shoreline stewardship, safe boating as well as vista, vegetation, tranquility and lighting.

Mirroring the sentiments of other members of Council, Councillor Bill Obee congratulated the MLPOA saying, "Well done. This is an excellent document and it must be very rewarding to see it finally come together."

Gilpin confirmed that the Association is sharing the document with other associations in the hope of helping them get started with the planning process as well. Gilpin said it was their hope to have a well educated group around the lake that is not coming to the Municipality with all of their needs.

Councillor Rick Ratcliffe inquired about the relatively small (three metre width) buffer zone that the Association is recommending. Gilpin said that there had been varying recommendations about the size of buffer and that the response to a buffer had not been overwhelming (about 50 percent). He said it was his hope that with cooperation and awareness the Association would be able to encourage the membership to restore waterfronts as much as possible to their original levels to protect the shoreline.

Councillor Peter Oyler inquired whether the Association would be asking Council to make the plan, once it is adopted, part of the Minden Hills Official Plan. Benson said that might happen, but that she didn't think it would be automatic. She said the possibility had been discussed at the Lake Planning seminar but she felt it was a matter for future consideration. Oyler commented that in order for the Lake Plan to be included it must be done during the Official Plan review process.

Benson said, "I would like to do a stewardship plan for the entire watershed. Once that is completed it would be a good time to include it in the Official Plan."

Benson and Gilpin invited all of Council to their AGM scheduled for June 21st. ■

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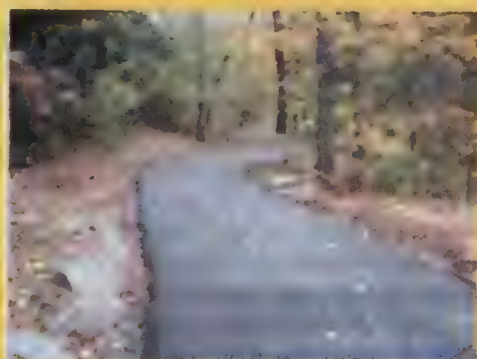
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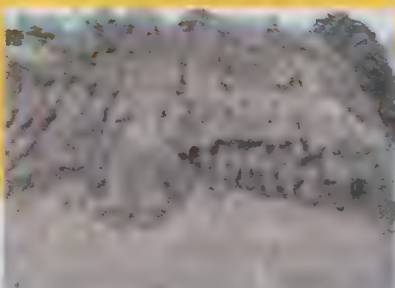
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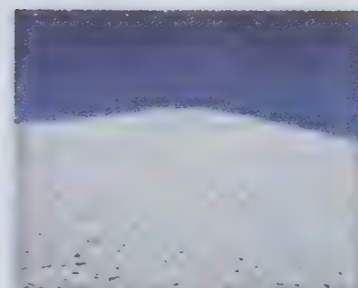
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Waiving Site Plan Control a Tough Sell

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

A request by Haliburton Chiropractic & Massage Therapy for a small addition sparked a lively discussion at this week's Dysart Council meeting. Dr. Katie Hammerschmidt approached Council with a request to waive site plan control, but her request was only met half way.

Hammerschmidt actually had two issues to address, one being parking at her clinic and the other her request to waive site plan control on her development. Reeve Murray Fearrey advised her that concerns had been expressed about parking on Highland Street. He asked if Hammerschmidt was considering adding more space to the building and she confirmed a proposal to add a multi purpose room equaling 600 square feet. She wanted to address any concerns Council might have before submitting her building permit application.

Hammerschmidt said the clinic was having scheduling problems with the space they have available. She confirmed that there are four people working in the building and no additional people would be added as a result of the addition. She also commented that she was unaware of any parking problems, other than the fact that she had a commercial property without parking.

In response to a question by Deputy Reeve Bill Davis, Hammerschmidt confirmed that she had an unofficial arrangement for parking at the church and that she had paid for snow removal for its use. She added that she also had an agreement to use space at the appliance shop across the road when it was available.

In a bit of an aside to the matters at hand, Councillor Andrea Roberts asked if Hammerschmidt is planning to keep the tree on the property next to the proposed addition. Hammerschmidt said that she planned to do everything she could to keep the tree. The tree has already been trimmed away from the roof but Hammerschmidt said, "We plan to stagger the attack on the tree." This is to reduce the impact of it having to be trimmed again when construction of the addition begins.

David Bishop, of the law firm Bishop and Rogers, attended the meeting and voiced concerns about the proposed development. He said there is already a concern about parking on the street. He added that the situation in the past has been that clients were using the parking lot that he has access to and often there is no parking for his own staff. Bishop said despite signs being put up people are still parking in his area.

Bishop said clients going to the clinic are parking on both sides of the street, a concern as the street is not as wide as others in the community and parking on both sides makes it extremely narrow. His concern was that any addition to Hammerschmidt's building would compound the problems. Bishop said the Municipality should be developing and maintaining more parking in the downtown area given the magnitude of parking problems.

Hammerschmidt said she had advised all of her clients that all of the parking lots were private. She said that her clients are parking on the paved boulevards which she also pays to have cleared of snow.

Fearrey thanked both parties for their input, saying that the main issue had been isolated.

Council had a variety of comments to make ranging from concerns about increased hours and the number of clients at the clinic to having no problem with what was being proposed. Reeve Fearrey said he was supportive of business but questioned having parking on both sides of the street.

Various options for parking were discussed and it was generally agreed that there is in fact sufficient parking with meters available close by at a low price as well as parking at each end of the street. Council agreed that an amendment should be made to the by-law isolating parking to one side of the street (the clinic side).

Davis said that while more people would be using the clinic he

didn't foresee a problem. However, he did suggest that should a change in use of the building take place in the future there could be a problem.

This sparked discussion on whether site plan control was necessary. Municipal Planner Pat Martin advised Council that they would have architectural control with a Site Plan Agreement. Roberts countered that if the need for site plan control was waived concerns could be addressed during the building permit approval process. Fearrey said that when site plan control had been waived in the past it had not been in the downtown core.

The matter of cost associated with a site plan agreement and with the cash in lieu of parking provisions was then thrown into the mix. Martin advised Council that while they could not waive the number of parking spaces associated with the addition the Municipality could give a reduction in fees by a percentage.

The matter was finally resolved with two separate resolutions. In the first resolution Council accepted entering into an agreement that two of the parking spots would be levied at \$500 each and the remainder would be at no charge.

The second resolution was a bit more complex. Council unanimously voted against waiving site plan control, which in essence meant that a Site Plan Agreement will be required for the development to take place. ■

Temporary Land Use to Continue on Lake Kashagawigamog

Spruce Tree Resorts has been given approval to maintain their real estate sales office on Lake Kashagawigamog for another year and a half. A request for a three year renewal reviewed at a meeting last Monday evening was met half way by Dysart's Public Meeting Committee.

Dysart Planner Pat Martin reviewed the details of the existing by-law which allowed 'the placement of a temporary structure to be used for the sale of residential units on Part of Lots 1 and 2, Concession 5 on Lake Kashagawigamog.' The original by-law authorized the maximum time allotment of three years with the ability to apply for extensions. Martin advised that the Council was indicating a preference for a one year extension. She also confirmed there had been no comments received in response to posting details of the public meeting.

Spruce Tree Resorts' agent John Alati reported that Spruce Tree Resorts has made a change in their share structure and a new marketing strategy has been developed. Alati asked for a two year extension as the new owners will be starting out with no sales. He said the sale of the company was expected to close by the end of the month.

Councillor Janis Parker suggested deferring any decision until Alati could confirm the sale, but Alati was not supportive of this. He said, "The earlier we can take the project to market, the better it will be for everyone." Alati said the new owners (Robert and Wendy Lewis) are proposing a different form of development, using fractional sales (i.e. 52 intervals for 10 owners). He said "The Lewises have a certain amount of savvy as to what the market will bear. If there is no trailer, it will impede sales and we want to take this to market as soon as possible."

Councillor Andrea Roberts suggested a compromise of one and a half years which would allow two spring/summer sales seasons. Everyone seemed to concur with this idea.

In response to questions about a site plan agreement, Martin confirmed that one is already in place. Alati, however said, "There may be a slight change in the unit count." Alati said there would be four individual buildings and fewer owners per unit. He added that with different tenures financing opportunities would improve making the units more attractive and saleable.

The public meeting closed and the Committee agreed to recommend a by-law that would allow temporary placement of the sales office for a 1 1/2 year period until November of 2009. ■

Township of Minden Hills Treasurer

Closing: June 5th, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

We are currently seeking interested qualified persons to apply for the position of Treasurer.

Due to the retirement of the Treasurer recently, the Township of Minden Hills is seeking a Treasurer. As Treasurer you will be responsible for the overall direction of the Corporation's financial management. The Treasurer must possess strong managerial skills to take the lead role of the Department. The first six months of your duties will consist of dealing with the planning, development and implementation of a Tangible Capital Assist Recording and Reporting System to bring the Township of Minden Hills into compliance with the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) requirements.

This position will report through the Corporation's Chief Administrative Officer to Township's Council on all financial, policy, operational and administrative issues, as well as directing the development of current and capital budgeting for the Corporation, including providing advice and direction on investment practices and procedures for the municipality. A full position description is available at the municipal website at www.minden hills.ca. The position requires an individual with a post-secondary education focused on finance, accounting and public administration with a C.M.A., C.G.A. or C.A. designation, with at least 3-5 years senior management experience, preferably in a municipal environment.

The Township of Minden Hills offers a solid remuneration and benefits package (under review with our consultant). Interested applicants are invited to submit a letter of application (no emails please), outlining their qualifications and experience, as well as a detailed resume by no later than Thursday, June 5th, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. to the attention of:

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Rousing Reading at R.D. Lawrence Centre

Tyson Farrell

Staff Reporter

"A flamingo flew over a sandbar fifty feet from a white sandy shore – the fluttering of its wings, the only sound in the late afternoon sky. The sea was a turquoise calm – the sun, warm, loving hands..."

Thus begins Jerelyn Craden's novel *Vessie Flamingo Outshining the Moon: A Tale of Self-Mastery and Love*. The book tells the story of a young woman named Vessie who is a psychic, a healer, and a levitator-meditator. While working as a jingle writer in New York City, Vessie is trapped in her car during a snowstorm. Suddenly, her inner child appears, and takes her on a journey of self-mastery and love.

Since its release in 2006, the novel has received praise from critics worldwide. Marilyn Harding of the Artemis Foundation called the book "Funny, endearing ... an inspiring call to live authentically and create the life you love." Heartlight Canada labeled the book "A highly entertaining, compelling, spirit-driven page-turner."



Jerelyn Craden, the author of *Vessie Flamingo*, recently moved to Haliburton County. Since arriving in December, Craden has become an active member of the community, working at Patient News Publishing and writing with the Playwrights Workshop Minden. The Workshop recently began their writer in residence programme, and asked Craden to be their first guest speaker. Accepting this honour, Craden read from her award winning book at the R.D. Lawrence Centre on May

2nd. As she read, a full house sat in rapt attention, hanging off her every word.

"I'm terribly excited to be here in the spirit of R.D. Lawrence. It's great, since this building is all about discovery, writing, dreaming, and exploring," Craden said. "My book is about living authentically. It's presented in an easy, fun, compelling way. It's a real romp." Craden's words proved true, for as she read passages of her book, the audience often burst out into laughter. Reading for approximately 40 minutes, Craden gave the audience a taste of her novel, and an extremely condensed version of Vessie's journey.

After Craden completed her reading, Playwright member Fay Martin questioned Craden about her book and career. When asked what she learned from her novel and protagonist, Craden responded. "I realized that I still need to set boundaries and take care of myself. It's a continuous journey, and I'm not at the end of it by any means... Moving to Haliburton was quiet an adventure. It's such a cultural change for me. My urban side is amused by it."

To a smiling audience, Craden explained what it was like moving from the city to Haliburton. She recounted how increased radio signals in Toronto gave her low spiritual energy, which made her realize it was time to move. "I felt drawn to Haliburton," she said. "I didn't know why, and I don't know why now. I know it will reveal itself though." To the delight of all in attendance, Craden explained how she was shocked by the winter and the county landfill site when she first arrived. Moving to the Highlands has been quite an endeavor for her, but she assured everyone that it has been enjoyable.

Minden playwright Michael Fay is the current writer-in-residence at the R.D. Lawrence Centre, and he was very pleased with the evening. "Having Jerelyn read is a great start to my writer-in-residence programme. I chose to invite Jerelyn because she is such a bright human being... She's a dynamic, strong personality. She has become part of our cultural identity in the Highlands. She is now part of our creative community."

Audience members and event organizers alike agreed that the evening was a great success. Craden shared her book, and life story, with a very receptive and appreciative crowd. The success of the evening was encouraging for the Minden Playwrights association, as they have a long list of similar evenings planned for the summer season. Craden's passionate performance has ensured that future events will be well attended and highly anticipated. ■

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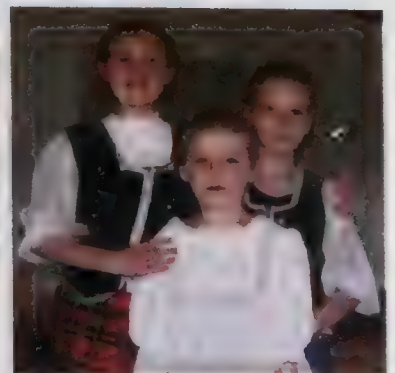
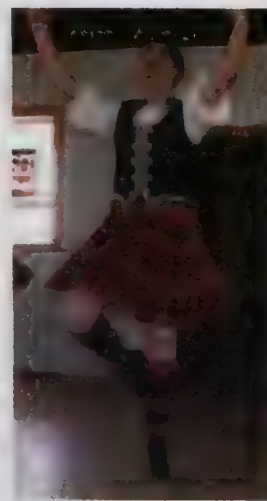
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Helping Out Our Highland Dancers

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

Silent Auction and Entertainment at Annual Fundraiser

A fundraiser was held at Carnarvon Bowl on Saturday, May 10, to raise money for four local female Highland dancers who are going to the Canadian Championships in 2009. The girls are: Emma Stephens, Rachel Burk, Sara Day and Hilary Vassos.

Breanne Mansfield, dance teacher at the Mansfield School of Highland Dance and coordinator of the event, said that this was the third annual fundraiser of its kind.

There was plenty of live entertainment as well as a silent auction with items donated from approximately 50 local businesses.

"They're all from my dance school," said Mansfield of the performers. "The Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums band are very, very supportive of us," she added.

She said that the turnout for this year's fundraiser helped make it a success and that everyone was doing their part to help.

"We've done real well. The families have been real supportive in trying to fundraise. We don't have a lot of other people involved, it's mostly spread by word of mouth."

You'll be able to check out about 100 Highland dancers at the 20th annual Highland Games on Saturday, July 12, 2008 in Head Lake Park, Haliburton. ■

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The Flaws in Environmental Laws

"I'm just offended and outraged that something so bad for the environment is perfectly legal."

Tyson Farrell
Staff Reporter

Highlander Paul Jancen values his natural surroundings. The forests, rivers, and lakes of the Highlands are dear to him, and he assumed they were protected from environmental degradation. However, as Jancen recently discovered, the current environmental regulations leave a great deal to be desired.

Paul Jancen lives a peaceful life near Bob and Gull Lake, where he enjoys the beauty of the surrounding forests. Paul's peace was recently shattered when he says he watched his neighbour bury approximately 70 bundles of old roofing shingles.

"My neighbour had contractors come and replace the shingles on his roof. My neighbour raised the bucket off his tractor up to the level of the roof, and the contractors threw the old tiles right into the bucket. When it was full of shingles, he took them about 15 feet from his house, dug a hole, and threw the shingles in. Then he filled in the hole with dirt. I used to be a roofer, and I estimate that he buried about 70 bundles."

Jancen was outraged.

"When I was roofing 30 years ago, we never disposed of shingles like that. Even then we knew that there was a proper way to dispose of them. We took them to the local landfill. Shingles are made from oil and tar, and they will decompose in soil. It might not be in my lifetime, but when they do decompose, the oil will leak down into the watershed, and into the local lakes," he said. "It's outrageous. A person wouldn't change their car's oil, and then go throw it in a hole in his backyard. It's horrible for the environment."

Although Jancen became irate when he watched the shingles get buried, he became far more upset when he phoned the Township of Minden Hills. The township informed Jancen that burying shingles is completely legal, despite the negative environmental consequences.

"According to the Ministry of the Environment, if a person buries shingles on their property from buildings on the same property, it is legal. That's the information we got directly from the Ministry," said Minden Hills Chief Building Official Ken Jones.

Jancen said that is just wrong.

"It's totally unbelievable. It's not ethically, morally, or environmentally right, and yet it's legal," Jancen said. "Someone should have made it illegal long ago. If the Ministry of the Environment says this kind of environmental degradation is legal, you have to wonder what the Ministry is really worth."

Jancen wants people to realize that he's not trying to cause trouble for anybody.

"I'm not trying to rock the boat, and I'm not a tree hugger or anything. I'm just offended and outraged that something so bad for the environment is perfectly legal." ■

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By Steve Newman



Listening for Whales



A new underwater acoustic system positioned around Boston Harbor is expected to help prevent collisions between North Atlantic right whales and the passing ships that often kill the marine mammals. Worldwide, only about 400 of the species are believed to have survived centuries of hunting and ship collisions. Once the sound of a whale has been detected in the busy shipping lanes around Cape Cod, nearby vessels will be asked to sail no faster than 10 knots. The network of marine microphones and the accompanying monitoring system will cost about \$1 million each year for the next 25 years, according to the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. "It's definitely an expensive tactic," said sanctuary marine biologist Leila Hatch. "But, the shipping industry has accepted it."

An Olympic Effort



Chinese officials say they are launching a massive public hygiene program to battle a recent viral outbreak that has killed 30 children, as well as to curb the spread of any other diseases prior to this summer's Beijing Olympic Games. The Center for Health Protection said it is possible that infections of hand, foot and mouth disease, which have spread rapidly across China in recent weeks, could reach historic highs this summer. The disease is caused by a virus, known as Enterovirus 71 (EV71), and often produces mild symptoms in children. But this year's outbreak has killed more than two dozen youths as it expanded from northeastern China to around Hong Kong and even into neighboring areas of Vietnam. The mutation of EV71 responsible for this year's outbreak appears to be unusually virulent, health experts say.

Heat and Dust



The Indian subcontinent's annual stretch of pre-monsoon heat has killed at least six people in Pakistan, where temperatures soared to 118 degrees Fahrenheit during the first week of May. Increased demand placed on the power grid by the use of air conditioners caused frequent blackouts, some lasting up to 16 hours. The region's famed season of heat and dust begins in April and often peaks in mid-May. The arrival of the southwest monsoon usually brings cooling rains by late June.

Andean Disaster



Entire populations of cities and towns in remote southern Chile were evacuated due to a massive Andean eruption that blanketed the region with a thick coating of toxic ash. Chilean navy ships transported many of the 4,500 residents of Chaiten to safety after a volcano of the same name erupted violently a few miles away for the first time in at least 9,000 years. Falling ash blew hundreds of miles eastward across Argentina's Patagonia region, killing livestock, poisoning crops and contaminating water supplies as it fell to the ground. Scientists say it could be months before the volcano calms down enough to allow the evacuees to return home.

Earthquakes



A powerful quake centered just off Japan's eastern Honshu Island caused buildings to sway in Tokyo, more than 100 miles away. No tsunamis or significant damage were reported.

• Earth movements were also felt in the central Philippines, western Sumatra, Russia's Lake Baikal region and north of San Diego, Calif.

Tropical Cyclones



As many as 100,000 people may have perished across much of southern Myanmar (Burma) as Cyclone Nargis roared through the country's Irrawaddy Delta and main city of Yangon. Many survivors said they were angry at Myanmar's military leaders for failing to properly warn them of the approaching storm, and for providing virtually no relief in its aftermath. Nargis was the strongest tropical cyclone on record to hit Yangon. It was also the first to strike Myanmar in 40 years.

• Tropical Storm Rammasun formed near Micronesia and was predicted to attain typhoon force late in the week.

Winged Terror



A growing number of farmers across Britain are discovering livestock that have been attacked and eaten alive by groups of ravens. The large birds, which are protected across the nation, have left many of the animals still alive and in agony after having eaten their eyes, tongues and soft underbellies. "The attacks are so horrific that they're causing mental suffering to people who find the animals," Johnny Hall, of the National Farmers Union of Scotland, told the *Observer*. Other farming union leaders say the sudden rise in attacks is due to European regulations, which mandate that dead livestock be disposed of in licensed animal disposal facilities instead of being left out for scavengers to feed on. Ravens traditionally eat such carcasses, but they are also known to prey on small mammals, including dormice, voles and rabbits.

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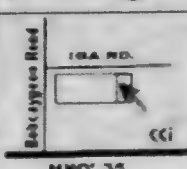
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Dancers Show Off Their Awards

Haliburton Dance Arts Competitive Team Returns With Results

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter



Highland Dance Arts team (in no particular order) Olivia Villamere, Abby Villamere, Alicia Villamere, Skye Lamshead, Trinity Robertson, Desi Robertson, Morgan Burke, Josie Quigly, Kiana Lavergne, Wyatt Hutchings, Shaylynn Hutchings, Bailey Brunner, Heather Zahn, Samantha Miller, Tanisha Gordon, Peyton Howorko, Kristin Adams, Kristie Clements, Tori Allin, Connor Marsden, Kenndal Marsden, Emma Scheffee, Maggie Scheffee, Rebecca Kidd, Jessica Mazara, Nicole Mazara, Brooke Stevenson, Rachel Churko, Bailey Walker, Christianna Walker, Loretta Kerr, Kelsey Curry, Kelsi Eno, Hilary Vassos, Quinn Schell, Claire Edwards, Shelby Elstone, Kayla Gardiner, Sara Stevenson, Caitlyn Dunlop, Jaimie Dack, Tessa Iles, Paige Carey, Laura Kirkpatrick, Alyssa Abbs, Jamie Purnell, Tamara Poropat, Chantal Cyr, Mackenzie Nuemann, Melissa Armstrong, Victoria Chaulk, Amy McPhee, Kelci Haley, Tyler Gilligan, Jenna Dibblee, Danielle Amodeo

The Haliburton Dance Arts competitive team recently brought back a bunch of trophies from the Orillia Opera House Dance Festival and the "To The Extreme Dance Competition" in Huntsville. Kelci Haley was recognized as the most distinguished jazz dancer and was awarded a scholarship to dance in Los Angeles this summer. The dancers were in a photo shoot with their awards at the Haliburton Dance Arts studio this past Monday.

The group received the Highest Overall Production award at both competitions with their "Back to School Production."

Some other high honours were given to them in the hip hop and musical theatre categories.

Individual awards were received by Carrie Oke for best music editing and Terri Mathews for best music choice and best choreography.

You can see all of the dancer's routines at the Dance Showcase on Saturday, May 31 and Sunday, June 1 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Tickets are available at the Photo Shop on Highland St. in Haliburton. ■

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Aboriginal Rights Activist Addresses Haliburton Symposium on Mining Practices

Terrance Gavan
Staff Reporter

Ottawa lawyer Michael Swinwood spoke with a feather in his left hand and an American \$20 bill in his right hand. The juxtaposition was never meant to be subtle. And the clash of metaphors was fairly obvious to his audience.

Swinwood told an audience at Fleming College last Saturday that a "linkage" between indigenous First Nation People, local residents and municipal officials would set the stage for an appropriate bulwark against the invasive policies of big uranium mining interests in the Haliburton Highlands watershed.



Ottawa Lawyer Michael Swinwood, Feather in Hand.

Mr. Swinwood has been an advocate of aboriginal rights in North America, Canada and more specifically eastern Ontario since embarking on what he calls a journey of discovery and realization that shaped his life in the mid 1990s.

"In 1995 I had an inspiration, which led me to a study of aboriginal spiritualism," said Swinwood, who allowed that this sojourn into native culture and spiritualism led him to the birthplace of ancient aboriginal civilizations in Mexico, to the Hopi tribe in Arizona and then to the Tsilhqot'in people in British Columbia. During his travels he said that he learned the importance of struggle as it relates to the intrinsic worth of the planet.

"Mother earth is in us and we are in mother earth," said Swinwood, whose soft-spoken and easy-going manner hides a significant cache of court savvy. One would do well to remember that Swinwood is an Ottawa lawyer, and he still believes that court rulings, class actions and timely injunctions are the fastest way to an uranium baron's heart.

Swinwood was part of a group of experts gathered at Fleming College last Saturday afternoon to discuss possible solutions to incursions of big uranium mining interests in the area. Swinwood says the problem is not limited to this area of the province. He indicated to the audience and to the head table guests that big mining interests have staked tracts of land on both sides of the Ottawa River. He wanted to remind everyone that it's now a bi-provincial problem affecting large chunks of privately owned and crown lands in both Quebec and Ontario.

Other members of the head table, included representatives of local municipal government, two organizers from Fight Uranium Mining and Exploration (FUME), a member of the Paudash Lake Conservation Association (PLCA), a doctor, a representative from the First Nations and a retired prison chaplain John Hudson. Hudson was recently indicted for contempt by the province for his vigorous actions in support of a moratorium on uranium

mining in eastern Ontario. Hudson advocates civil disobedience as a right of every resident of Ontario who possess legitimate concerns over a breach of their rights. He sides along the seven jailed First Nation leaders who remain imprisoned for their actions against incursion of big business on disputed lands. Amnesty International has taken Premier Dalton McGuinty to task over the incarceration of the First Nation leaders.

Swinwood said that about 87 percent of Ontario is made up of Crown Lands, and the other 13 percent is owned privately.

In both cases, the province holds the subsurface mineral rights.

Mining companies, wielding a \$25 prospectors license have the right to go onto any private or Crown Lands and stake a claim. Once that claim is staked, the companies can start to build access roads, clear land and commence drilling

of test holes. Bancroft Uranium Inc. has just completed one of these slash surveys and they have drilled test holes on a claim near Tory Hill. Local residents and cottagers fear that uranium-mining operations will have an adverse effect on their property values, health and quality of life. Panel members were preaching to the converted at Saturday's meeting. If one thing could be taken away from Saturday's symposium on uranium mining and attendant practices in Eastern Ontario, it's that residents are extremely nervous. Despite claims about "green and safe mining of uranium" espoused by uranium mining cartels like Frontenac Ventures and Bancroft Uranium Inc, residents have been doing homework on the internet. What they are finding is a distinct lowering of the quality of life in areas where uranium mining occurs. They are also finding little solace in reports about the subsequent toll a decommissioned uranium mine has on the property invested with a legacy of tailing ponds and detritus and on real estate

values on land adjacent to closed mines.

Residents at the meeting were asking: "Why here and why now?" Legitimate questions, which need to be drawn against the backdrop of the world's resource stage.

The sudden and renewed interest in uranium prospecting hinges upon an invigorated upswing in the price of uranium ore. China's interest in opening nuclear reactors to fuel the needs of their burgeoning economy is cited as one of the lynchpins of this rise in uranium prices. Ontario, and especially this area of Ontario, has a plethora of known uranium resources. Uranium mining operations were running at several locales in the Highlands'

>> Story cont'd... pg. 27...

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Minden River Kings Owner Updates Council

Terrance Gavan

Staff Reporter

River Kings Gird for Jr A Action in September

According to co-owner Ken Girard, Minden's new Junior A hockey franchise will be starting fresh. New league, new outlook, new arena signage, new center ice logo and a brand new name.

Girard, who is the Vice-president of the Greater Metro Hockey League, is a co-owner of the Minden franchise along with League President Bob Russell, and he said that the moniker was tentatively selected after Canoe FM radio asked listeners to submit nicknames for the fledgling franchise, which begins play in Minden next September.

"Right now we're the Minden River Kings, and that name was chosen after members of the community emailed their choices to Mike (River King coach Mike Jeschke), after a program on local radio," said Girard. He said that the name edged out the Monarchs nickname in the voting.

"Well, I understand that there's history with the Monarchs in Minden and I actually have no problem with the name, but I think a lot of people wanted to let bygones be bygones and were in favour of a fresh name, and the River Kings, I was told, led the voting."

Girard also said that this year the GMHL will be adopting NCAA (American College) rules. The NCAA has an automatic ejection rule for fighting and Girard says that because a lot of the players will be moving on to Division I, II and III schools, the league does not recruit so-called enforcers and added that this will be a move destined to providing fans with a fast-paced, free-flowing product.

As reported in the May 1st edition of the Voice, Minden council gave their approval for the franchise last month. The GMHL Board of Governors gave the nod to Minden's application at a meeting on April 28th.

Girard appeared at Minden Council last Thursday to provide Minden councillors with an impromptu update regarding the

team's plans for the season. "I'm a hands-on guy and I was at council to let them know exactly what they could expect from our team and our players," said Girard in a telephone interview from league offices yesterday.

Russell and Girard started the league two years ago with seven teams. They expanded to 13 teams last season and they have added three franchises, including the River Kings to push their team complement to 16 for the 2008-09 season. Girard also owns GMHL franchises in Elliot Lake, Bradford and Innisfil, and says that budgetary considerations for a team in a village like Minden will run to about \$140,000. "A lot of that money, for billeting of players and purchases by the team, goes right back to the community," said Girard.

Girard said that the GMHL is dedicated to providing good clean entertainment and he says that all of the players who sign on are held to some pretty stringent rules and regulations. "We're coming into smaller communities, and we want our players to be role

models," says Girard, who allowed that his team in Elliot Lake this year sponsored or were involved in 31 separate community-based events like food drives, learn to skate days and carnivals for kids. He says that because the GMHL is considered a developmental league and because it is not affiliated with the CHL or Hockey Canada, they are able to draw on a lot of European players who have aspirations to play in Canadian Universities or US Colleges. Also because of the developmental nature of the league, owners insist that players attend classes and respect curfews. Players not respecting team and league rules are summarily asked to leave. "We want our players to be active members of the community."

Season tickets for the Minden River Kings, who will play most of their home games at Minden Arena on Sundays at 4 p.m., will be selling for \$135. "That includes all exhibition games and any and all playoff games," says Girard. "once again, we are keeping prices reasonable because we really want to provide a package that's open to the whole community." ■

"Let's just say, if you sit in one, you'll want one" Limerlost and the Haliburton Chair

Got the boat? Got the dock? Need the chair. The Haliburton Chair that is.

The Highlands has had to play 'second fiddle' to the Muskokas for so long, that ordering a Muskoka Chair 'just wouldn't sit right'. Now though, that situation has been rectified, because at long last we are to have our own chair...The Haliburton Chair. Available at Limerlost on Highway 35 at Minden. You know the place; a long, low, wooden structure, with many deck chairs, colourfully arrayed along its length.

Richard Graesser, the owner of Limerlost, a cottage furniture establishment, discusses how the chair came into existence.

"A man came to me from Peterborough, who had trademarked a Kawartha Chair. I made him several prototypes," Graesser reveals, "but as he was the customer I was limited in what I really wanted to do. After the customer approved of a design for the Kawartha Chair, I figured that Highlanders needed their own distinct chair. Someone tried before, but the chair was just basically a Muskoka Chair with the name 'Haliburton' burned into the wood."

Limerlost has trademarked the name Haliburton Chair, and the new chair is significantly different from the Muskoka Chair, which is itself just an Adirondack Chair with a different name.

On seeing the Haliburton Chair for the first time, one of the things most noticeable is its smoothness. There are no protruding nuts and bolts. "The chair features construction that hides all the screws," Graesser said. He says the Haliburton Chair also has more comfort-features than the Muskoka or Adirondack chairs. There's the built-in curved headrest, and it's a higher chair, easier to get in and out of. It's great for people with long legs. It's as high and wide, and matches in quality and size the most expensive chair in our Muskoka line, but at a price which will be slightly lower than the least expensive Muskoka Chair. It has a wider seat width, which carries up to the space between the arms. If there's a demand for a lower chair we'll bring that out, but this chair suits most people."

The chairs are made of clear (no knots), kiln-dried Western Red Cedar from B.C. If you think it's strange for a chair made in the Highlands and called the Haliburton Chair, to be made from wood which comes from the west coast, Graesser explains. "Well you might think of making the chair from pine, but pine rots," he explains. "Eastern White Cedar might be a possibility, but it's too full of knots, because it comes from small trees, and it cracks badly in the sun." Eastern White Cedar, also known as bog cedar, is not a commercial wood. Western Red Cedar on the other hand is a commodity. "It's very popular in Europe and Japan."

The Haliburton Chair will be available in a natural finish or painted to customer request. "It's going to be recognizable from a distance. People will see that you've got a Haliburton Chair, not a Muskoka Chair; it's that different."

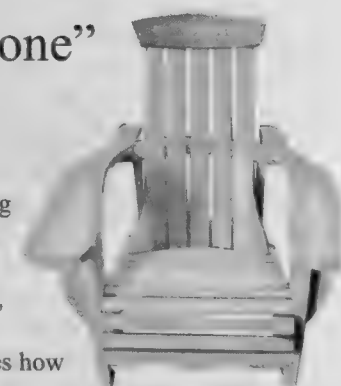
Graesser feels that the Haliburton Chair will raise

awareness and help to promote the county outside its borders, while also being a popular item among Highlanders, especially those who want the status of "not just a different chair, but a better chair."

"We've had interest from Muskoka already," says Richard with a chuckle.

Graesser was asked what's it like to sit in a Haliburton Chair?

"Well, let's just say if you sit in one, you'll want one." ■



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Symposium on Mining cont'd...

>> ... from pg 25

watershed and Ottawa Valley back in the late 50s and early 60s. The antiquated Ontario Mining Act allows companies like Frontenac and Bancroft to stake lands and apply for mining rights. The staking of claims, said Swinwood is a natural outgrowth of this confluence of happenings. Big business in a free economy coupled with a sympathetic government. And to add more impetus to the mix, Ontario now on the verge of becoming a Canadian have-not province. Should we be surprised?

Swinwood said that a class action lawsuit framed around existing aboriginal rights may be the best recourse to stopping the Ontario Government and their intrinsic ties to big mining interests. He said that the Hudson's Bay Charter of 1670 is part of the corporate consciousness that lingers in the actions of governments today.

Granted by King Charles II of England, May 2nd, 1670, the Royal Charter gave an exclusive trading monopoly over the entire Hudson Bay drainage basin to "the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England."

Swinwood allowed that the antiquated document may be in mothballs, but he said that the charter's philosophy holds sway over the corporate consciousness of present day Canada.

"Nothing has changed," Swinwood told the audience. "Back then, a company of adventurers were given permission to look for minerals. It allowed individuals to stake land and those practices continue to this day."

Swinwood explained that in a fight to halt mining in sensitive areas, existing aboriginal land claims still have the best chance of winning in a court of law.

He cites the 2007 case of the an all-or-nothing bid for control of a pristine valley in British Columbia's central interior resulting in a victory for the Tsilhqot'in people. In a Canadian first, Mr. Justice David Vickers of B.C. Supreme Court found Chief Roger William and the Xeni Gwet'in people succeeded in establishing their aboriginal title to a significant portion of their traditional territory.

Swinwood has been involved in similar court actions on behalf of the Algonquin in the Sharbot Lake area.

He told the congregation at Fleming College last Saturday that residents, cottagers and First Nation's people must find a common ground if a class action suit against the Ontario Government and vested mining interests were to proceed.

He explained that his years of association with Algonquin elders and clan mothers have assured him that such a unification of consciousness could happen.

He said that it would require a rethinking of priorities and allegiances. One of the panel members, John Kittle concurred with Swinwood. Kittle and his wife Sheila live on Snow Road not far from the Sharbot Lake standoff between the Ardoch and Obaadjiwan Algonquin First Nations and Frontenac Ventures Corp. over uranium exploration in Eastern Ontario. He and a number of white settlers have sided with the Ardoch and Obaadjiwan in their struggle against Frontenac, standing shoulder to shoulder on the barricades.

Swinwood said that when people are faced with overwhelming odds and foes that seem intransigent and implacable, sometimes the only recourse is court action.

"No Algonquin I know wants your property," said Swinwood, allaying fears that a class action suit brought by the Algonquin would pose a threat to entrenched landowners' claims to property.

"Court is a forum where we can speak openly and freely and it's also where we can bring an impact to the feet of the politicians."

Swinwood allowed that it would require more money than the grassroots anti-uranium lobby currently possesses. However, he added that as the petitions grow in number, and the donations continue to roll in there may come a day in the not too distant future, when a coalition of the willing, aboriginals, cottagers, municipal mandarins and long-term residents, would confront the government and big mining with the threat of class action.

"Meetings like this shows me that there is a shift in consciousness and shows me that there is a potential for linkage between groups in support of a common goal," said Swinwood.

"It also shows me that an essential thing is building here." ■



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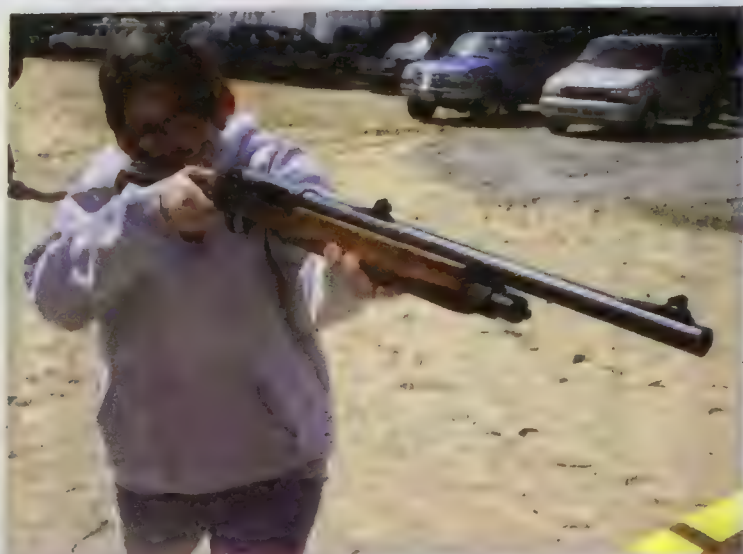
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Student Cheyenne Graham takes aim

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"It's an educate-to-employ program designed for kinesthetic learners, and students who find the traditional classroom environment difficult," said course instructor Derek Little. "It's a great program that gives students a lot of different life skills over a five-month period. This



program offers about \$20,000 worth of licensing to the students. We provide them with hunting and gun licences, first aid and WHMIS training and a lot more. We teach students the skills they need to get a job, especially jobs within the local community. One hundred percent of the students find a job when they complete this course."

Program alumni and assistant instructor Davis Reynolds believes the program is very important.

"It's geared towards students that aren't going to college or university," he said. "It gives students a lot of practical training and experience, and makes them more desirable to employers."

For the majority of the students at the shooting range, it was their first time firing a gun.

"I've never shot anything before," said student Dylan Dahlke. "It's really cool. It's a good thing for the class to do. We got our gun licences about a month ago, and now we're getting practical experience. It's a lot better than sitting in math class all day."

Fellow student Cheyenne Graham agreed.

"I think that this is a great experience. It makes people realize that guns aren't all bad. People can be safe and have fun with them."

The firearm instructors were happy to donate their time and educate the students.

"It's very important that kids be taught how to safely fire a gun. I believe that there are elements of citizenship. A person needs to learn how to drive, swim, read, write, shoot a gun, and be good to their neighbour," said Peter Terry, of the Haliburton County Marksmen Club.

"We live in the country, and people need to know how to operate a gun. In the city, guns are only used to shoot people. Up here, a gun is a tool, and one that can save your life."

Throughout the day, instructors took every precaution possible, and made sure that all students remained safe. In exchange, the students appeared to be extremely attentive, and respected all of the shooting range rules.

"We've been operating this shooting range for years," one instructor spoke. "We've never had an accident."

Although safety was a primary concern, it did not stop the students from having fun, and many were able to laugh and joke, while learning a valuable life skill. ■



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Duchene brings some Golden Memories to Alma Mater



Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

"Teams will always look at your grades when assessing you,"

Matt Duchene is used to playing to packed houses.

After all, this is a guy who plays elite Junior Hockey for the Brampton Battalion in the OHL, a league that has given us the likes of Bobby Orr and Wayne Gretzky.

Matt became the only first-year player in Battalion history to record two three-goal games and he was the leading scorer for gold medal-winning Team Ontario at the 2008 World Under-17 Challenge at London, Ont., scoring four goals and adding six assists for 10 points in six games.

Most recently, Duchene led Canada's gold medal-winning team in goals at the 2008 IIHF under-18 championship in Kazan, Russia. Duchene scored five goals in seven games during the tournament.

So, Matt Duchene has seen his share of packed houses. He's at home in the moment. It's a facet of his life that he's prepared for since he first dropped into the world of competitive hockey at age four.

But even this weary world traveler will tell you, in a quiet moment, that there's nothing like coming home. Home is patient, evocative and self-effacing. It's a nice tranquil place. It offers solace, company and cheer.

And home was exactly where Duchene landed last Wednesday, addressing a packed gym full of JD Hodgson Senior Elementary School students who were quite literally hanging on Duchene's every word. Duchene is a former JD Hodgson Athlete of the Year. By his demeanor in front of the podium, it's obvious that he's very happy to be here today.

The senior elementary school is just steps down from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School where Duchene is completing his school year. He started in September at a Brampton high school, but was allowed to transfer back to HHSS to complete his spring semester when the Battalion fell prey to the Barrie Colts and early elimination in the first round of the OHL playoffs.

Of course that was just before he got the phone call from Under-18 coach Pat Quinn and spent the better part of April in Kazan, competing for Canada in a tourney that is destined to provide Duchene with the impetus to go after some of his other goals. Like a spot on the Canadian Junior Team, continued success and a possible Memorial Cup with the Battalion and of course, further down the road, a lengthy and rewarding career in the National Hockey league.

Duchene alluded to goals and aspirations as he addressed the students of JD Hodgson.

He was comfortable, composed and directed at the podium looking again, very at home, as he operated the mouse for his PowerPoint presentation from the dais at the front of the gym.

"Education is very important," said Duchene. As if to underscore the point, Duchene told his eager audience that he was offered a scholarship at prestigious Michigan State

University before finally deciding to accept an offer to play alongside another Haliburton product Cody Hodgson, with the Battalion. Hodgson was the captain and leading overall scorer for the gold medal Canadian under-18 squad in Russia.

Brampton coach and GM Stan Butler has always said that talent is nothing without the accompanying mindset. As a coach Butler has always sought brain before brawn. Some of that philosophy and wisdom has obviously had a palpable trickle down effect on rookie Matt Duchene.

"Teams will always look at your grades when assessing you," said Duchene. The kids were nodding, but the teachers in the crowd were smiling. It's nice to have access to a positive role model, who can relate on a very real level with students. Especially when he also happens to be chatting affably about the importance of grades. They won't admit it, but teachers kill for this stuff. Smart, successful former students visiting and telling secrets to a gym packed with malleable mindsets. Secrets like hit the books, get smart, study hard. Can we get this in a video game?

Duchene added that coaches will look for a player willing to accept a role. National Team selection panels look for players possessing positive character traits when assessing overall compatibility. Positive attitude and solid character, said Duchene, are important ingredients when one is pursuing a spot on a national squad where things like respect, leadership and selflessness play key roles in selections.

Duchene said that teams, like the one he played for at the Under-18s, never rely on a hit list of superstars. Role players fill the ever-important niche spots on any international roster. Duchene said that character players find their slot and adapt. If you're not willing to fit in, it's likely that you won't be asked to participate. And that's where character will out.

"It's been my experience that hockey coaches are looking at character first and then talent," Duchene said. "Teams are looking for players that put team first."

Duchene added that he's seen a lot of superior and skilled players cut from rosters because of a poor attitude. "I was taught respect. Don't talk back; look the coach in the eye; and nod yes when you're asked to do something," he said, adding, "you as students could do well to do the same."

The third plank in Duchene's troika of intangibles, along with character and respect is one that Duchene says he prizes ahead of everything else.

"Work ethic is very important," said Duchene, to nods and smiles from the crowd. "I'm not perfect and I've had to work extremely hard. I've worked to come back from a broken collarbone and a back injury and that's where I found that nothing is free. If you don't work hard it will catch up to you."

Duchene launched into a slideshow depicting his travels over the past year, from the Battalion, to Under-17s to the Under-18 World's in Russia.

In an ad hoc question and answer period Duchene draws a hail of boos, interspersed with some hoo-rahs, when he admits that his favorite team is the Montreal Canadiens.

And let's face it, it takes a brave soul with solid character to admit to cheering for "Les Habitants" in the heart of Leaf Nation.

Asked what his biggest commitment in hockey has been to date, Duchene says, "good question," thinks a bit, and says that the move away from home and friends to Brampton and the Battalion framed one of the biggest commitments of his life.

"Living away from home is hard, but it's something I had to do and it's been a positive experience," said Duchene.

At the end, Duchene is mobbed at the podium, and he patiently waits as each student in line poses for a picture or touches the gold medal around his neck.

He is obliging with photographs and patiently answers any and all questions. He is also, I notice, a picture of calm confidence.

It goes on for 15 minutes. Duchene smiles and takes it all in. The character, the ethic and the dedication to education all tied into the fleeting moments in his old gymnasium.

And of course why not.

Matt Duchene has come home. ■

Sports Column

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Redhawks Fall to Thomas Aquinas Titans

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor



Rugby Juniors Blanked in Divisional Clash

Sometimes a learning curve seems more like a slippery slope.

Haliburton High junior boys went out gamely, but still came up short in a scheduled rugby tilt last Friday.

The Redhawks were playing their second game of the season. They were lined up against Lindsay's St. Thomas Aquinas Titans who were competing in their ninth game this season.

The Titans led at the half by a 19-0 margin and stretched that lead to a comfortable 33-nil win when it was all said and done.

Rugby is a tough way to make a living, especially when you're on the wrong end of a lopsided score.

The Titans were obviously more comfortable in all facets of the game last Friday, moving the ball down the field with alacrity in the first half.

They showed tight decorum in their marches, mixing good ball movement with a strong phalanx of running and kicking options. A combination of solid ball movement and kicking to safety when lanes were blocked provided the impetus for a very solid Titan game plan.

Aquinas also proved very adept at moving quickly from downed balls and they struck a very measured chord when exiting the ball from scrums.

Once again, the Redhawks showed excellent tackling skills, vestiges of their comfort level with Canadian football. Indeed the score could have been even more lopsided were it not for the adept play of the Haliburton tacklers who showed a fearless determination in wrangling an assortment of talented Titan backs to the playing surface.

Coach Kevin Ray said that he was happy with his team's overall play. This week they added a new wrinkle, attempting more

kicks to open field. However a very strong wind played havoc with that strategy and their overall ball movement lost some continuity as they struggled with the kicking game.

Co-coach David Treharne echoed Ray's sentiments and said that he was pleased with the way his charges played, and he said that he was especially happy with the way the Redhawks were tackling, especially in the open field.

At the same time he said that there was still lots of room for improvement.

"We were lacking in some aspects of the game," said Treharne. "I think we need to keep in mind that 90 percent of these players have never played the game before and this is only our second game," said Treharne.

"Those guys (Aquinas) have played a lot of games and some tournaments this year and experience, at this level, shows."

Treharne said that it will take some time to build a program in Haliburton, adding that areas like Lindsay and Peterborough and Cobourg have a strong and long history of rugby to build upon. Haliburton, as a relative newcomer to the sport will take some time to develop to a point where they can compete with consistency at that level.

"We're trying to build a program from scratch," said Treharne. "We're showing great improvement. Every day we're learning more about the game, but we're playing against some very stiff competition in this league. All of these guys we played today have had exposure to organized rugby and that shows."

Both Treharne and Ray agree that this year's club is a work in progress, and both are very positive and patient with the results.

"We're very happy with the play of the boys," said Treharne. "We're building for next year and it's looking very good." ■



Haliburton High Blanked by Fenelon



Senior and Junior Girls Drop Nil Decisions to FFSS

Fenelon Falls soccer clubs have been enjoying remarkable success on the pitch this year.

Of course, that wasn't exactly good news for Haliburton Highlands Secondary School girls soccer clubs, who ran smack into the Fenelon juggernaut on the way to posting twin nil losses last week.

The Senior girls dropped a 5-0 decision to Fenelon in the first game of the twin bill last Friday afternoon in Haliburton.

Chelsea Cotter scored twice for Fenelon who stretched their season record to 5-1 with the win.

Jessica Marren, Jillian Steele and Kathryn Ward added single tallies in the contest.

In Junior action, Cassie Longfield scored three times to lead Fenelon to a 9-0 victory.

The game was never in contention and the Fenelon Junior club took advantage of some long and accurate crosses to pull into a 3-0 lead at the half.

Lucy Prins, Caleigh Crockford, Roseann Martin, Brittany Oliver, Whitney Berry and Carly Gatt all added singles to round out the Fenelon scoring. ■



A Hero's Welcome



Above: Matt Duchene shows his Under 18 Championship Medal to J.D. Hodgson students

Right: JDH assembly pays full attention to Duchene's inspiring message.

See Sports Column on Page 29.

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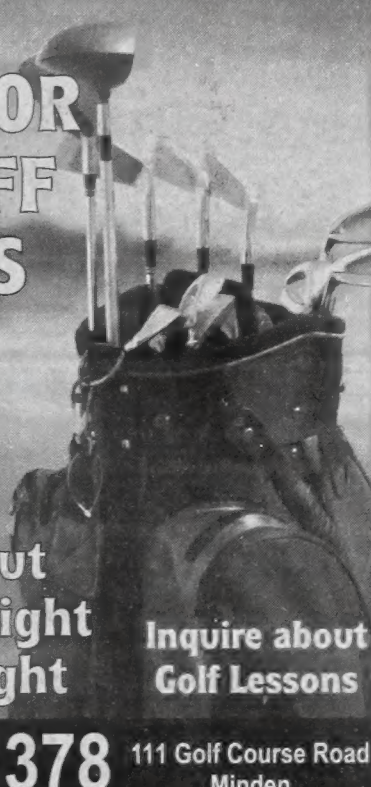


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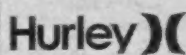
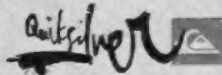
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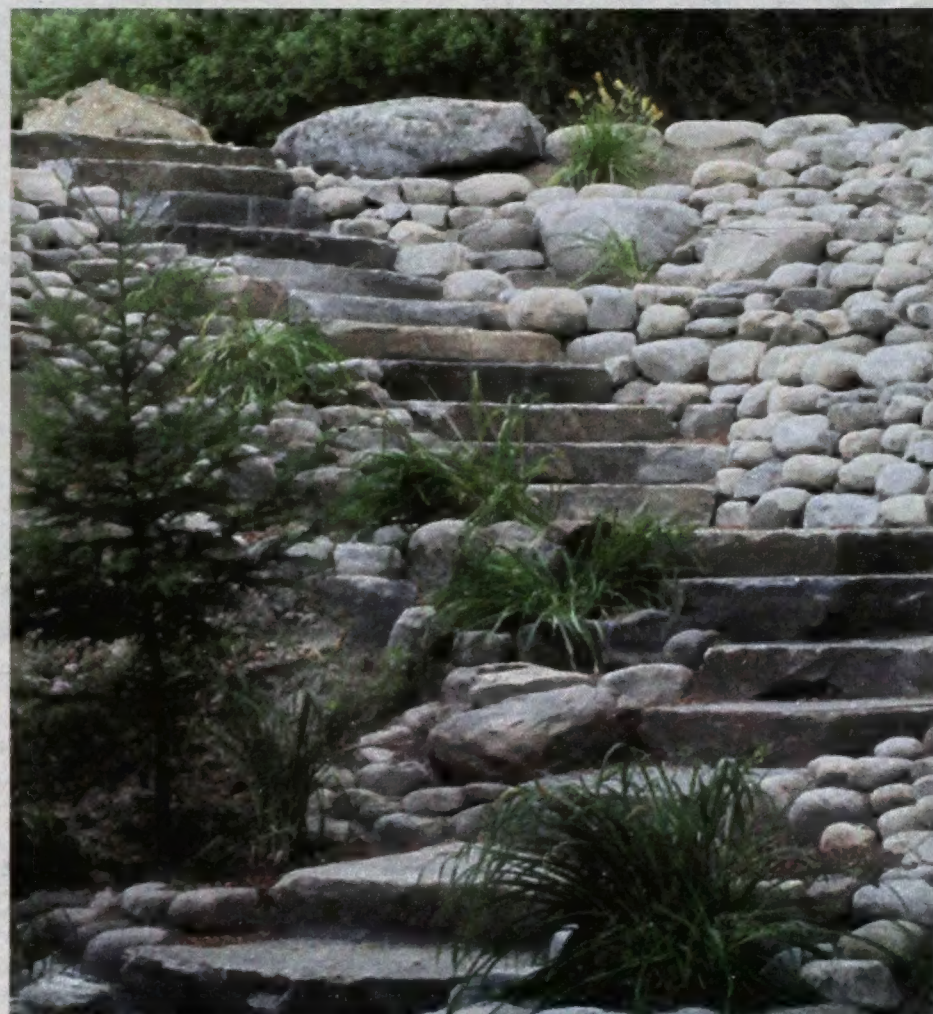
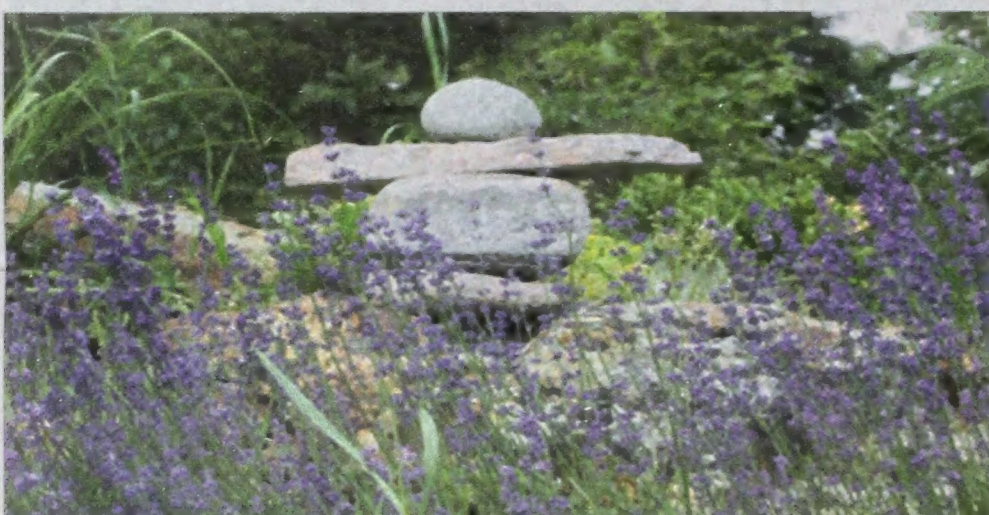
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